1998 Historical Preservation Element

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Preservation of historic resources is important to Harford County's future. Maintaining the homes, farmsteads, gristmills, and religious structures built by Harford Countians of the past will help foster community identity, stimulate economic growth, and provide a benchmark to allow citizens of today to measure their own accomplishments and plan their future achievements.

This Historic Preservation Element Plan provides a framework for future preservation planning in the County. It addresses the need for the identification, conservation, and management of the County's rich and diverse array of historic resources. It was developed in response to the Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Act of 1992, which changed the way citizens of the State of Maryland address land use by focusing planning efforts toward growth management and resource protection.

The Harford County Code requires the development of a County Master Plan. In July of 1996, the County adopted its 1996 Master Plan and Land Use Element Plan. That document called for the creation of several initiatives including a historic preservation plan "to strengthen and provide an overall vision of the County's historic preservation program." The Historic Preservation Element Plan sets the framework for the County's policies on historic preservation. It emphasizes the public/private partnerships that have characterized historic preservation in the past and will continue to do so in the future. And it reiterates the philosophy of "owner consent" that has always formed the core of the County's efforts to safeguard the historic resources that make up the shared cultural heritage of all of Harford's citizens. Other major themes addressed throughout the Historic Preservation Element Plan include:

- refining and expanding the County's "Inventory of Historic Sites"
- coordinating and streamlining of historic preservation efforts
- stewardship of historic resources
- using historic resources to help define communities
- public awareness and education

In addition, the Plan contains four appendices intended to serve as "background papers" to help the professional and amateur historian alike better understand the importance of Harford County's heritage.

Highlights of the recommended tasks in the "Strategies for the Future" found in Chapter V include:

- Create a "historic" layer in the County's Geographic Information System
- Revise existing preservation legislation as needed
- Support citizen efforts to establish a "restoration depot"
- Refine village protection strategies
- Investigate financial incentives for citizens and businesses to protect historic resources
- Pursue designations as a means of protecting individual sites and districts

INTRODUCTION

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Harford County, Maryland, is one of the longest-settled areas in eastern North America. It contains an extremely rich and diverse array of buildings and landscapes, sites and communities that reflect the history not only of the nation but also of the continent. In the County one can find 5,000-year-old archaeological sites from the era of the Susquehannocks, early English colonial cabins, Palladian-style mansions, two of the few remaining Freedmen's Bureau schools, houses built by French emigres fleeing revolution in Europe and the Caribbean, some of the country's earliest and finest Gothic Revival churches, and proven "stops" on the famed Underground Railroad.

These buildings and sites are not only interesting and valuable as splendid stylistic examples from their various periods, they are also important as reminders of the fascinating *people* who have shaped the County's history. Harford County was home to the famous topiary artist Harvey Ladew, whose gardens draw scores of thousands of tourists to the County each year. It was from Harford County that four generations of the Rodgers family shaped the course of the American navy, Junius and Edwin Booth made pioneering contributions to the American theater, and doctors Howard Kelly and John Archer made bold progress in American medicine. During the federal era, Robert Smith of Spesutia Island proved himself a good friend of Thomas Jefferson. Four generations later, Sen. Millard Tydings of Oakington became an equally prominent figure during Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. When Mary E.W. Risteau, who made her home in Harford County, championed women's rights in the 1920s and 1930s, she could draw inspiration from her fellow Countian Cupid Peaker, who had bravely pioneered the rights of African Americans a century earlier.

The County's rich mix of diverse cultures found three-dimensional form in architecture. During the

late 18th and early 19th centuries, Welsh miners brought their Celtic heritage with them when they established the mining communities of Cardiff and Whiteford. Similarly, a century and a half later, Czech shoemakers brought their *Mittel European* culture with them when they settled in the Bata Shoe Company's new town at Belcamp in the 1930s. Harford's African-American citizens, a presence on the scene for three centuries, have left their architectural legacy in communities throughout the County, from Dembytown near Edgewood to Gravel Hill near Havre de Grace to Kalmia in the Deer Creek Valley.

Many of these irreplaceable resources are now threatened--indeed, many no longer exist--due to unprecedented population growth in the 20th century. Harford is one of the fastest growing counties in Maryland due, in part, to its location between New York and Washington, its easy commuting distance from Baltimore and Towson, and its wealth of major transportation arteries. Accordingly, as growth was directed into the Development Envelope, many historic resources have been lost; the three municipalities of Aberdeen, Bel Air, and Havre de Grace continue to plan for growth; and long-established villages such as Bush, Abingdon, and Emmorton have begun to experience a loss of identity. Beyond the Development Envelope, the County's traditional rural landscape has become more suburban and the traditional roles of the villages have been changing to serve residential development as well as farms. As planned growth and redevelopment have been focused on historic villages--ancient centers of local commerce--older structures and historic sites have tended to make way for new construction due to economic pressures on property owners.

The major purpose of this Historic Preservation Element Plan, the first enacted by the County, is to ensure that, as citizens plan for growth, they will be able to protect Harford's historic resources in a coordinated, streamlined, and thoughtful manner. It is also important to point out that the Plan urges the County to continue to base its historic preservation policies on the philosophy of "owner consent." This Plan's goals, objectives, and recommendations pertain to designated historic sites only--not to every old barn--and prior to designating any resource "historic," the County has always required that the written consent of the property owner(s) be obtained.

The document begins by explaining the relationship of this Element Plan to the Harford County Master Plan and to the Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Act of 1992. The Plan then includes a description of Harford County's existing historic resources, a summary of preservation efforts to date, and a program for future action. The Plan also offers strategies for documenting the County's rich history, for disseminating information about its heritage among all citizens, and for guaranteeing that the accomplishments and landmarks of the past will help foster pride in the communities of the future.

Finally, a series of appendices is included to heighten citizens' interest in their collective history and heritage. These appendices include a somewhat lengthy discussion of the County's past 5,000 years, a list of sites and districts listed in the National Register of Historic Places, a list of Harford County Landmarks, and a Glossary that explains highly technical terms and esoteric phrases.

The Harford County Charter requires the development of a County Master Plan. The 1996 Master Plan's "guiding principles"--quality of life, stewardship of our resources, growth management, a sound, balanced, and diversified economy, commitment to communities, and coordination among agencies--serve as the common threads providing continuity and consistency among the various plan elements. The 1996 Land Use Element Plan is the core of the Master Plan, since it provides the basic strategy that will allow the County to accommodate and manage growth. It is supported by other element plans which further the purpose of the Master Plan. Adopted Plans include the Water and Sewerage Master Plan, the Transportation Plan, the Solid Waste Management Plan, the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Program, the Natural Resources Element Plan, the Rural Plan, and the Open Space, Land Preservation, and Recreation Plan .

This Historic Preservation Element Plan, specifically identified as an implementation measure of the 1996 Land Use Element Plan, will be one of the element plans. Several of the other element plans are naturally interrelated, particularly the Rural Plan, the Natural Resources Element Plan, and the Open Space Plan; since all have as major goals the protection and stewardship of the County's irreplaceable resources, whether man-made or natural. The Rural Plan, for example, addresses the preservation of the County's rural character and agricultural economy; the Natural Resources Element Plan contains a section devoted to the creation and protection of greenways, many of which contain areas rich in historic structures and sites, and the Open Space Plan offers opportunities for the protection of resources through programs such as the State-mandated Program Open Space.

THE PLANNING ACT

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The rapid rate of growth which Maryland has experienced in recent years led the State to pass the Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Act of 1992 (or "the Planning Act"). The Planning Act placed new responsibilities on local jurisdictions to develop comprehensive plans which responded to seven "Visions" outlined in the Act. These "Visions" are:

- Development is concentrated in suitable areas;
- Sensitive areas are protected;
- In rural areas, growth is directed to existing population centers and resource areas are protected;
- Stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay and the land is a universal ethic;
- Conservation of resources, including a reduction in resource consumption, is practiced;
- To assure the achievement of 1 through 5 above, economic growth is encouraged and regulatory mechanisms are streamlined; and
- Funding mechanisms are addressed to achieve these "Visions."

The Planning Act further states that these "Visions" are "intended as the beginning of the planning process, not the end. Local governments will start with the visions and interpret them to establish their own priorities and concerns." It also encourages jurisdictions to create methods for directing economic development and growth to designated areas.

The Historic Preservation Element Plan addresses the visions of the Planning Act by promoting a

more integrated approach to management and preservation of the County's patrimony while providing a framework for future preservation efforts. It discusses how Harford's citizens will be able to coordinate their preservation efforts with State and Federal programs, with the municipalities, and with agencies within the County government. It provides a framework for the continued identification and designation of historic sites and properties and lays the groundwork for creating a system that allows for more adequate, systematic, and fair protection of these sites than has been available. Finally, it ensures that heritage tourism, school curricula, and the general promotion of Harford's historic assets will contribute to the economic well being of the County and its residents. All these initiatives depend on forging partnerships between the County and private citizens' groups and indeed the concept of partnership forms the bedrock of the plan.

HISTORIC CHARACTER OF HARFORD COUNTY

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Preservation of historic resources is important to Harford County's future. It will help foster community identity, stimulate economic growth, and provide a benchmark to allow citizens to measure their own times and their future accomplishments. To preserve the past, one must understand it. Towards that end, this section of the Historic Preservation Plan offers a brief overview of Harford's 5,000-year heritage.

The County's rich history might best be viewed as a continuum. In tracing the many threads that constitute Harford's cultural legacy, one sees not only how the many diverse threads come together to make the final fabric, but also just how richly detailed that fabric is. Thomas Jefferson called architecture the greatest of the arts "because it shows so much." Because people choose to build their homes, churches, barns, and factories in a certain way, one is able to infer a good deal about the builders by looking at their buildings. That is the importance of Harford County's architecture: what is built reflects not only the visions of architects and clients, but the values of their eras. Thus, the more one knows about the buildings of the past, the more one knows about one's own past.

Some of the historic structures that constitute Harford's heritage, such as farmsteads, religious and transportation-related structures, and industrial sites, might be viewed as "standing on their own merit". On the other hand, other resources are best understood as parts of a larger picture. The County's villages and municipalities, for instance, are more than the sum of their parts because, while individual buildings do shape communities in a physical sense, communities are also shaped by the desires, beliefs, and aspirations of citizens.

Location and Pre-history:

Harford County, perched at the head of the Chesapeake Bay, has been home to European-Americans and African-Americans for more than three centuries. (See Figures 1 and 3.) Before that, it was home to a flourishing native American population for at least 5,000 years. Traces of Susquehannock, Conoy, and Massawomek habitation have been found in the Tidewater regions near the Chesapeake, on now-submerged islands of the Susquehanna River, and along the streams

and creeks that criss-cross the County. Many of these archaeological sites are now on property occupied by the federal government at the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground (sometimes referred to as the Aberdeen Proving Ground).

Farmsteads:

A wide variety of structures and sites associated with European- and African-American cultures are located in the rural stretches of the County. Settlers began moving into Harford in the mid 17th century, but little built before the mid 18th century remains above ground as evidence of these peoples. More work could and should be done to locate and safeguard the archaeological sites associated with those first European settlers. The oldest buildings that can be securely dated are a half-dozen vernacular-style houses of the 1740s located along the stream valleys used as transportation routes. Farmhouses that can be securely dated to this time include Webster's Forest near Creswell, Joshua's Meadows near Bel Air, and Prospect (now part of Olney Farm) in the Joppa-Magnolia vicinity.

Many farms in Harford County have evolved over more than two centuries of continuous use and occupation. These establishments, therefore, exhibit a wide range of building styles and types. Among the more notable examples of these continuums may be found at The Vineyard near Bel Air, Model Farm near Upper Crossroads, Indian Spring Farm in the Dublin-Darlington community, Broom's Bloom near Creswell, Woodside near Emmorton, the farms in the Silver Houses Historic District near Darlington, Blenheim near Havre de Grace, Mount Soma near Fallston, and Swan Harbor Farm in the Havre de Grace area. While the other farms are all privately owned, Mount Soma and Swan Harbor have been purchased by the County for use as parks. The buildings at Mount Soma and Swan Harbor and the archaeological sites that dot their acreages combine to offer fascinating pictures of how rural life in the County has evolved over the generations.

Otherwise, the rural sections of Harford County contain a mix of houses and outbuildings, mills, quarries, and other early industrial sites, spanning a wide range of styles and types just as the towns and villages contain a mix of residential, public, religious, and commercial structures necessary to their residents.

Religious Structures:

Churches of most denominations may be found in the County's towns and villages and reflect the diversity of Harford's citizenry. Indeed, many communities grew up around, and, to an extent, had their character defined by, a single house of worship. Fallston, for example, largely exists because of the Little Falls Meetinghouse, established by William Amos II around 1740. Similarly, Churchville owes its origins largely to the Churchville Presbyterian Church, also established in the 1740s and revitalized by the Rev. William Finney in the early 19th century. Other religious structures appear in the countryside to serve the spiritual needs of their generally farming congregations. Examples include St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church near Pylesville and Ayres Chapel United Methodist Church in the Norrisville vicinity.

The buildings themselves display the variety of styles one would expect in a locale so long settled.

The building styles have evolved locally just as they have nationally, evincing the changing tastes and values, since the physical shell of religious structures is usually determined by the requirements of the liturgies that take place within. One building unique in America is Priest Neale's Mass House located near Priestford. It was built as a missionary outpost in the mid 18th century to house circuit-riding Roman Catholic priests at a time when the English Parliament made it illegal to celebrate mass except in private houses. The oldest houses of worship in the County (such as the Mass House, the Old Brick Baptist Church near Jarrettsville, St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church near Hickory, and St. George's Vestry House at Perryman) were built in the simple vernacular styles of the mid 18th century. Later church architecture in the County reflects the evolution of architectural style and taste from the clean lines of the federal era (St. John's Episcopal Church in Havre de Grace) through the Gothic Revival (St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Emmorton), the Greek Revival (First Presbyterian Church in Bel Air), Carpenter Gothic (Tabernacle Methodist Church near Broad Creek), Italianate (Churchville Presbyterian Church), the Shingle Style (Church of the Prince of Peace in Fallston), and the modernists styles of the 20th century such as the Harford Jewish Center near Havre de Grace and the Unitarian Universalist Church near Churchville.

Transportation-related Structures:

In the 17th century, Harford was traversed by the great Post Road, laid out to connect the northern and southern colonies and one of the first great public works programs in America. Because even the swiftest coach or rider could travel only a dozen or so miles a day, entrepreneurs quickly constructed inns and taverns along the road to house weary travelers. Two possible 18th-century examples remain in Harford: the Elizabeth Rodgers House in Havre de Grace almost certainly dates to the 1780s as may portions of the Bush Hotel. The site of the Peggy Stewart Inn at Joppa is known and would seem a prime candidate for further archaeological investigations.

Generations of travelers on the County's roads and highways didn't enjoy the benefit of bridges. Coach drivers on the Post Road in the 17th or 18th century, when coming to a stream simply built up speed and tried to forge their way through. Travelers on foot, had to wade through streams and the diaries of many colonial-era travelers are filled with complaints about the abhorrent state of the County's infrastructure. Today, one can get a sense of what crossing a stream meant in the 18th century by driving north on Tabernacle Road and fording Broad Creek.

With improvements in technology, highway bridges finally began to span the County's waterways in the 19th century. Some, such as that on Jericho Road near Jerusalem Mill, were covered, with walls and roofs built to protect the wooden decks from the elements. Many more, such as that at Noble's Mill, were metal and were mass-produced at factories throughout America, the parts shipped to the County and assembled on site. All were engineering marvels, employing the latest technologies of their time.

In the early 19th century, local businessmen planned and built the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal so that timber, iron, grain, and other bulky products from Pennsylvania could be easily shipped by water to the wharves at Havre de Grace. The canal closed around 1900, but many vestiges of it remain including the lockhouse and lock at Havre de Grace and the lock near Lapidum. Located across town from the lockhouse, Havre de Grace's Concord Point Light House, constructed in 1827,

guided generations of ship captains around the treacherous Susquehanna Flats.

In the 1830s, Baltimore businessmen formed a corporation and planned a railroad north to Philadelphia. The company, known as the Baltimore and Port Deposit Railroad, began laying tracks in 1834 and the line was completed to Havre de Grace in 1836. Two years later, the company was reincorporated as the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad (or P. W. & B; still later the Pennsylvania). Little remains from the line's early years except for the vast bridges constructed to carry tracks across the Bush and Gunpowder rivers. Engineering feats in their day, the bridges have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Trains of Amtrak, Conrail, and MARC now use the P. W. & B.'s right of way.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad--the first commercial rail line in America--laid its tracks north from Baltimore to New York in 1880. Its route was farther inland than the P. W. & B.'s and therefore did not need the long bridges across the Gunpowder River. Nevertheless, the stone bridges that carry the tracks across Route 755 (near Van Bibber) and across Superior Street (in Havre de Grace) have an impressive, Piranesi-like quality. The B&O has become a part of the CSX system, which still uses the Harford County tracks. The Pennsylvania Railroad station in Aberdeen dates to the mid 20th century, but the city's B&O station is a proud survivor from the Victorian era.

The last railroad built through the County, the Maryland and Pennsylvania (or Ma and Pa), was completed in 1884 to link Baltimore with York, Pennsylvania. The company closed in 1959, but sections of the right-of-way are being incorporated into a hiking trail. Most of the stations have been demolished, but the ones at Vale, Forest Hill, and Whiteford remain.

Notable twentieth-century transportation projects include construction of U.S. Route 40 (one of the first landscaped parkways in America) and U.S. I-95. The former dates to the 1930s; the latter was dedicated by John F. Kennedy in November 1963, in one of his last acts as president. A few gas stations and diners remain from the golden era of the automobile, most notably the 1930s Esso (or Exxon) station near Benson on Route 1 and the Eisenhower-era New Ideal Diner in Aberdeen.

Industrial Sites:

As with other building types, Harford's industrial architecture spans generations, reflects new developments in technology, and is both cause and effect of changes in culture. The first industrial sites in the County date to the late 17th and early 18th century. Among these were the several iron forges and furnaces that made the County a pioneer in the American iron industry. The more important of these were Stephen Onion's forge near Joppa, the Stump family's forges and furnaces along Deer Creek near Stafford, and the La Grange Iron Works near present day Rocks State Park. Entrepreneurs began another furnace near Creswell in the early 19th century. Called Harford Furnace, the enterprise grew steadily. It grew quickly after 1867 when the French-born Clement Dietrich bought it and over 5,000 acres of land. Dietrich expanded the company's industrial base from iron smelting and refining to include a chemical plant to produce wood alcohol and various kinds of acid. Dietrich's success proved short-lived, however, and he closed operations in 1876. The mansion he built in 1868, Fair Meadows, still stands as a reminder of his industrial wealth.

As the County's agricultural base shifted from tobacco to grain in the 18th century, Harford's swift-flowing streams made logical sites for gristmills, and experts have identified over 400 such sites. Only three of these (Jerusalem, Rock Run, and Walters) are still used. One, Eden Mill in the Norrisville community, has been preserved by the County and forms one feature of a large park. Many others, while privately owned and adapted to new uses, retain most of their original appearance, e.g., Whitaker's Mill, Noble's Mill, Mill Green Mill, Ivory Mills, and Amos Mill, the last two associated with the County's preeminent milling family, the Wileys. Sometimes these mills stood in splendid isolation; sometimes, as at Mill Green and Jerusalem, little villages grew up around them, as is discussed below.

The County's 19th-century industries, while still based on Harford's essentially rural economy, reflected the advancing technological prowess of the nation at large. For example, in mid century the Hollingsworth family established their noted wheel factory in the Winter's Run Valley. While the factory turned out thousands of wheels that anticipated the era of mass production, most of its customers used the wheels on traditional farm carts and wagons. And although the wheel factory itself has long disappeared from the scene, it is recalled in the name Wheel Road, the road that led to it. (Similarly, while most of the County's mills have gone, they, too, are recalled in many road names such as Hooker's Mill Road, Prospect Mill Road, and Baldwin Mill Road.)

Fishing brought great wealth to some Harford County families in the 19th century, perhaps most notably the Silvers, who sent vast rafts out from their docks at Havre de Grace and Lapidum. Again, the Silvers adapted older technology to fit "modern" needs but used much of their catch traditionally, as fertilizer to improve the family's farmlands south of Darlington.

If fishing made some 19th-century Countians rich, canning brought wealth to many others. Aberdonian George Washington Baker is thought to have started the County's first cannery (in 1866), but others soon followed including members of the Mitchell and Osborn families. Indeed, by 1897, the compilers of the Portrait and Biographical Record of Cecil and Harford Counties could state unequivocally that "Harford is the greatest canning County in America." Today, only one active cannery--Jourdan's, near Darlington--remains in the County, the rest having been closed when market forces rendered them unprofitable as the 20th century wore on. Much of the vast Mitchell canning facility at Perryman still stands and the Whiteford Packing Company continues to operate, turning out frozen--not canned--foods. But most of the hundreds of plants, large and small, that formed the dominant economic force in the County for a century have been demolished, partially because they are so difficult to adapt to other uses. Although the canners' industrial plants have generally gone, their homes still stand to dominate the streetscapes of Aberdeen, Perryman, and Havre de Grace.

Harford gained a true symbol of 20th-century technology and industry in the 1920s, when the Philadelphia Electric Company constructed the monumental Conowingo Dam across the Susquehanna near Darlington. The dam was--and remains--among the largest such projects in the east.

Villages:

Villages and hamlets dot Harford's countryside as they have for centuries. The earliest of these, such as Michaelsville, and the first County seats, Old Baltimore and Joppa, have for various reasons disappeared. While nothing or very little of these places exists above ground, they have recently been studied by archaeologists. The site of Joppa is both a County Landmark and a National Register Historic District; these designations are explained in Part IV of this Plan. The Joppa community, most of which lies in the Development Envelope, is rich in historic resources. Some of these include the National Register Jerusalem Mill Village Historic District (which has multiple public and private owners), the privately-owned Rumsey Mansion, and the McComas Institute, a Harford County Landmark and one of the County's two surviving Freedmen's Bureau schools. Historic County-owned property in the Joppa area includes the 19th-century Franklin Road Bridge over the Little Gunpowder.

Very little remains of the 18th-century village of Bush, either. Once the County seat and the known site of French army encampments during the Revolutionary War, the community's historic resources include the Bush Hotel, a Harford County Landmark, and the site of the venerable Bush Mill. The Hall family owned the tavern in Bush that served as the County's courthouse during and immediately after the Revolution. Although that tavern has been demolished (its site marked by a plaque) it would be a good candidate for archaeological work. Even though their tavern is gone, the Hall family's home, Sophia's Dairy, still stands and is a Harford County Landmark.

The Hall family also owned a good deal of land in the Perryman community. While most of present-day Perryman dates to the era of the canning industry that dominated the area in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the community does contain the one historic structure from colonial times, the Spesutia Vestry House, and the picturesque 19th-century Spesutia Episcopal Church with its ancient, shaded cemetery.

A bit to the west of Perryman and Bush on Route 7 (as the Post Road is now officially known) one comes to the village of Abingdon, also in the Development Envelope. Unlike most of the County's communities, Abingdon did not "just happen." Instead, it was conceived of all-of-a-piece and laid out in the mid 18th century as a speculative venture of the noted Paca family. Prosperous for a generation, the town boasted the first Methodist-affiliated college in America and its merchants traded regularly with locations as distant as the West Indies. But, beginning around 1820, it entered a slow decline. As a result, little but the Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House (a Harford County Landmark) remains from Abingdon's "golden age," although many remodeled structures in the community probably contain structural elements that date to the federal era. Abingdon also contains St. Francis de Sales Church, a Harford County Landmark probably built for the convenience of the Southern and Eastern-European immigrants who worked at the nearby Harford Furnace. Abingdon's citizens have shown their commitment to preserving the memory of their proud past by naming new subdivisions after landmarks in the community's history.

The village of Edgewood, located south of Abingdon, was based around its train station. While the original station is gone, much of the late 19th- and early 20th-century village that grew up around it remains, with its small shops and houses for those who tended shop or manned the station. Edgewood and its railroad gained national prominence during the Civil War when Harry Gilmor, a Baltimore County native, led a small band of cavalry on a raid through Harford County, ending in the Edgewood-Magnolia area, where he torched the railroad bridge, thereby (temporarily) stopping

transportation and communication between Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia, New York, and other Northern cities. In this century, Edgewood has grown in response to the 1917 opening of the large army post, originally known as the Army Chemical Center (now a part of the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground), and to U.S. Route 40, built in the 1930s. The Federal government has displayed a keen interest in documenting and preserving historic resources on the post and National Register properties there include two brick structures dating to the 18th century (the Gunpowder Meetinghouse and the residence Quiet Lodge), the Poole's Island Light, the oldest light house in the Chesapeake, and some of the exotic trees collected in the mid 19th century by Gen. George Cadwalader for his estate at Maxwell's Point.

Emmorton, an important rural village for most of the 19th century, lies in the heart of the Development Envelope directly north of Edgewood. Community residents have preserved many historic resources including one Harford County Landmark, St. Mary's Church, a building Johns Hopkins University Professor Phoebe Stanton called "the finest rural church in the diocese of Maryland." One jewel in the Emmorton area is the rolling acres of Harford Glen Environmental Education Center, with its ancient stone house and outbuildings. Rapid and relatively intense development has caused long-time and new residents in Emmorton--and in the other villages within the Development Envelope--to have concerns about community identity and visual character. Retention of historic resources will do much to allay some of these concerns.

Some rural villages such as Forest Hill, which owes its initial prosperity to the Ma and Pa Railroad and to a renowned general store, grew and still function as trading posts and commercial centers. The historic core of Forest Hill remains a discreet entity, easily recognized from the suburban development around it. It is characterized by late-19th-century frame houses (large and small), the brick general store/post office, and the eye-catching railroad station with its flaring roof.

The streets and landscapes of Whiteford-Cardiff still evoke that community's settlement by Welsh miners. Slate tombstones, inscribed in the consonant-laden Welsh language, are prominent in the community's cemeteries; quarries still dot the landscape. The town's streets are still bordered by slate sidewalks; and, as if to symbolize the material's importance to the community, slate frequently forms the foundations of many buildings in town. At the southern edge of town, one finds the Slate Ridge School, listed in the National Register and named for the commodity that made the community possible. Whiteford and Cardiff stand out as closely-built villages in a community that is overwhelmingly rural in nature. This area of the County is strong in its commitment to agriculture, and it is thus highly appropriate that the first agricultural school in Maryland, planned to instruct future farmers, was established in the Highland community in 1924. This rural character is further preserved in the Rocks State Park, containing the Harford County Landmark King and Queen Seats and the rattling wooden deck of the historic Cherry Hill Road Bridge.

The small, picturesque village of Norrisville, located a few miles west of the Whiteford-Cardiff community, serves some of the basic needs of the sparsely-settled community which surrounds it. Numerous historic farmsteads dot the hillsides and nestle in the valleys that form the pastoral landscape of this rural community. County-owned historic sites in the Norrisville community include Eden Mill Park and the Green Road Bridge. The citizens of these rural villages have preserved much of their communities' historic physical fabric over many generations, illustrating their commitment to the perpetuation of the traditional way of life. This salient fact must be considered when planning any

future growth.

Darlington, whose slate sidewalks are also famous, is still characterized, in a unique manner, by the quiet Quaker spirit of its founders and by the large, stylish estates established in the late 19th century by wealthy Philadelphians. The entire village has been designated a National Register Historic District and the vast Lower Deer Creek Historic District takes in much of the greater Darlington-Dublin-Glenville community. Protected County-owned historic resources in Darlington and Dublin include the Francis Silver Park, Noble's Mill Road and Forge Hill Road bridges, the Darlington Elementary School, and the Darlington branch of the Harford County Public Library. Quakers, famously egalitarian in outlook, were among the fiercest opponents of slavery in the years before the Civil War. Thus it comes as no surprise that Darlington and Dublin contain more than their share of landmarks in Harford's rich African-American history. These include two certain stops on the famed Underground Railroad (the ice house at Swallowfields and the site of the William Worthington House) as well as one of the County's two surviving Freedmen's Bureau schools, the Hosanna School, a Harford County Landmark. Hosanna was originally called the Berkeley School to recognize the community of free African Americans who settled there in the early 19th century. Other County Landmarks in the area include the Rigbie House, the Deer Creek Harmony Presbyterian Church, the Deer Creek Friends Meeting House, the D.H. Springhouse, and Dublin's Tabernacle Church. Community residents have been protective of the rural nature of Harmony Church Road, Noble's Mill Road and other quaint gravel-paved byways that picturesquely snake over hills and along streams.

Communities formed by free blacks when slavery was still legal and not unusual in the County, appeared throughout Harford as early as the 18th century. Kalmia, established in part by free African Americans who worked at the industrial sites along Deer Creek, may stand as typical with its array of dwelling types, simple commercial structures, and chapel. Dembytown, on the other hand, dates to the 20th century and was founded by black agricultural workers who lost their livelihood when the federal government condemned the County's bay-front acreage to create the military installations at Edgewood and Aberdeen.

The towns of southern Pennsylvania are characterized by a streetscape of structures built right up to the sidewalk in a regimented manner with no front yards or other building setbacks. Harford's communities located closest to the Quaker State and thus most influenced by Pennsylvanians such as Cardiff-Whiteford, Norrisville, Dublin, and Darlington, display the same well-ordered, build-to-the-sidewalk aesthetic.

On the other hand, towns and hamlets farther from the Mason-Dixon Line show a different streetscape aesthetic. "Old Fallston," with its stone meetinghouse, consists of a collection of frame dwellings, stores, and churches all surrounded by large lawns and shaded by venerable trees, with structures placed in an informal manner along the streets. Other noted historic resources in the greater Fallston area include the 18th-century house Bon Air, a Harford County Landmark and one of the few dwellings in the state to display the influence of French architectural thinking. Its builder was an emigree Frenchman.

Sometimes, especially in rural areas, historic resources are "shared" by more than one community. The Old Brick Baptist Church, a Harford County Landmark, for instance, lies between Fallston and

Jarrettsville. The National Register-listed Ladew Topiary Gardens, which lies equidistant among the villages of Jarrettsville, Fallston, and Baltimore County's Monkton, is enjoyed by citizens from both Counties. The vast My Lady's Manor Historic District also sprawls across the boundary lines of the Jarrettsville, Pylesville, Norrisville, Fallston, and Monkton communities, as does one of its citizens' principal interests, namely fox hunting.

Sometimes villages grew up around single industries. In addition to Jerusalem and Mill Green (both mentioned above) one thinks of Cookville. Located on a pastoral stretch of Harmony Church Road and started by the Quaker Cook family in the 1840s, the hamlet still contains their houses, a school, and the buildings associated with their source of employment, the tanning of leather. Twentieth-century industrial communities include Conowingo Village, built in the 1920s to house workers constructing the Conowingo Dam. In the 1930s, Harford County was the scene of one of the more remarkable industrial communities in the nation, the Bata Shoe factory (and village), built by the Czech-born Bata family and perhaps the only community in America designed to reflect the European Bauhaus influence.

The village of Churchville did not grow up around an industry; it grew up around and was named for a church. The Churchville Presbyterian Church, one of the County's more venerable religious institutions, gave its name to its community and still, with its central location, soaring steeple, and prominent memorial to the Rev. William Finney, forms the visual focus of the town. The important Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, begun by the prominent Harlan family, and the nearby Asbury Methodist Church underscore the importance of historic church buildings to the community. Most houses in Churchville are built of frame and, some people suggest, base their form and massing on "Greenwood," the simple, five-bay frame dwelling the Rev. Finney built for himself and his family just north of town. The Churchville Presbyterian Church has been designated a County Landmark and the Finney Houses are a National Register Historic District. Other Landmarks in the community include the Thomas Run Methodist Church and the farm Christopher's Camp.

As discussed, Abingdon was laid out as a planned community in the 18th century. Planned communities continue to be built in the County today. The most recent are Joppatowne, built on the site of the 18th-century County seat Joppa, and Riverside, built on land holdings of the Bata Shoe Company at Belcamp. Conceived of and begun in the 1960s and 1970s, each reflects that era's thinking about what citizens of any community need, such as efficient transportation, schools, and recreational facilities, and the need to adapt the relevant traditions and landmarks of the past to fit the needs of the present--and future.

Municipalities:

The County's three incorporated municipalities, the Cities of Havre de Grace and Aberdeen and the Town of Bel Air, had totally different historic bases. Thus, as one might expect, though all three lie within the Development Envelope, their architecture and ambiance reflect these varied origins.

Havre de Grace is a product of the nation's federal era. Considered a possible site for the national capital in the 18th century, the city in its first years attracted a remarkably sophisticated set of residents who built stylish structures along its broad streets and on the gentle hills that surround it.

Virtually the entire city is a listed National Register Historic District and the nearby farm Sion Hill, home of the sea-faring Rodgers family, is the County's only National Historic Landmark. County Landmarks in the area include the St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery, the hallowed resting place of four ex-slaves who fled bondage and joined the Union army to fight for freedom during the Civil War.

Bel Air was founded to serve as the County seat. As a result, it grew up around its courthouse and its building stock is generally characterized by the somewhat conservative, low-key buildings associated with government and professions such as banking and the law. Greater Bel Air contains a wealth of protected historic structures including Liriodendron, the Courthouse and the County offices which surround it, the public school buildings on Gordon Street, the Scott House (headquarters of the Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation), and the historic bridges at Ring Factory and Whitaker Mill roads. All these are County-owned historic sites. In addition, Tudor Hall (near the hamlet Fountain Green), the Hays House, and the Whitaker Mill and Miller's House are all County Landmarks in the Bel Air area.

In contrast to the County's other municipalities, Aberdeen owes its origins to the dynamic mid-19th-century canning industry and the railroad; it owes its impressive 20th-century development to the large military base created adjacent to it in 1917 and to U.S. Route 40, one of the first landscaped parkways in the nation. Aberdeen's architecture reflects these lively forces and ranges from late Victorian mansions built by canning millionaires to railroad stations and industrial sites, from mass-produced houses by Sears Roebuck to streamlined diners of the Eisenhower era. County-owned and protected historic property in Aberdeen includes the Old Aberdeen High School. As was the case at the army base near Edgewood, the Federal government has displayed a great interest in the history of the Army Proving Ground. It restored one of many Victorian-era mansions built by the canning Mitchell family as a museum and as headquarters for its preservation staff, it has listed the Plumb Point Historic District in the National Register, it regularly cooperates with the Historical Society of Harford County to cosponsor tours of historic sites, it has allowed archaeologists to conduct digs at several important sites, including the location of Old Baltimore, County seat in the 17th-century.

Sparked in part by the Aberdeen Proving Ground, by improvements in transportation, and by governmental programs such as the G.I. Bill, the pace of building in the County intensified after World War II. Harford gained its first housing development in the 1940s, Howard Park in Bel Air. Mass-produced houses became the norm in the County in developments such as Wakefield Meadows near Bel Air, Edgewood Meadows near Edgewood, and Bar-Kess Heights at Aberdeen. It gained its first regional mall (Harford Mall) in the early 1970s. Thus while retaining much of its individuality and heritage, as the 20th century closes, Harford County finds itself thoroughly part of the Greater Baltimore metropolitan region.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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DOCUMENTATION AND PROTECTION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

Hollingsworth Wheel Factory, Wilna vicinity,c. 1880

Harford County's rich cultural heritage is reflected in its exceptionally diverse stock of historic buildings, sites, and structures, including unique creations such as an 18th-century Roman Catholic mission, Priest Neale's Mass House, and a remnant of the only example of 20th-century Bauhaus town planning in America, the Bata factory at Belcamp. The County has supported surveys of historic resources since 1969. This ongoing effort should be continued to aid in evaluating surviving resources and in documenting the heritage and character of the County's diverse communities and cultures for future generations.

GOAL: ***Designate and protect sites and structures that serve as significant visible reminders of the County's history.***

Objective One: Provide for the systematic identification of historic buildings, objects, districts, sites, structures, and archaeological sites.

Recommendations: The County shall assist citizens, nonprofit groups, and other professionals to maintain and update its portion of the Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory.

The Department of Planning and Zoning will continue to work with the Historic Preservation Commission to assess potential candidates for the Harford County Landmarks list and the National Register of Historic Places.

The County will include all inventoried historic sites, structures, and archaeological sites in the Geographic Information System, recognizing that limiting access to the precise locations of archaeological sites will help ensure their continued integrity.

Objective Two: Ensure that each designated historic resource receives adequate protection.

Recommendations: The Historic Preservation Commission will work with the managing department or agency to ensure that all historic County-owned buildings are regularly inspected and properly maintained.

The County shall strive to preserve County-owned historic resources in a cost-effective manner that is consistent with their character and function.

The Historic Preservation Commission shall periodically review the County Code and recommend modifications if needed for the better protection of County-owned historic resources.

The County will support citizens' efforts to develop an objective system of evaluating designated historic resources so that the results can be readily understood by political leaders, the business community, realtors, property owners, the preservation community, and the general public.

The County shall support the establishment of a private, nonprofit group, modeled on the highly successful Harford Land Trust, whose mission is to preserve historically significant sites.

Objective Three: Develop standards for protection of designated historic resources.

Recommendations: The County should develop a program which affords historic sites protection depending on each site's relative importance.

The County, in conjunction with organizations and groups such as the Historic Preservation Commission and the Historical Society of Harford County, should provide brochures, pamphlets, and other educational materials to citizens restoring historic structures.

The County shall educate owners of historically significant structures about existing programs intended to discourage demolition by neglect.

The Historic Preservation Commission will encourage owners of County Landmarks to maintain these structures in a manner consistent with their historic significance.

The County should consider adapting the "Secretary of the Interior's Standards" to make them more reflective of local needs.

SUMMARY

Identifying and protecting historic properties and archaeological sites enables present and future citizens to assess their own place in history and fosters a sense of pride in the accomplishments of citizens of the past. Professional architectural and cultural historians and archaeologists have been documenting Harford's heritage since the 1930s, when archaeological digs were conducted on lands within the Aberdeen Proving Ground. This process must, by nature, be ongoing as new information is learned and evaluated. Indeed, in 1978, the United States Supreme Court recognized this in the landmark case, Penn Central Transportation Company v. City of New York (438 U.S. 104) when it stated that the process of designating and evaluating landmarks "is a continuing one."

The Harford County Historic Preservation Commission, appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council, should continue to serve as the citizen's body primarily responsible for overseeing and coordinating Harford's preservation/revitalization programs. Commission members should have interest, knowledge, or training in the fields of history, architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, and preservation and should, as far as is practicable, represent the County's diverse population and cultural heritage. The Historic Preservation Commission, working with organizations such as the Harford Archaeological Society and the Historical Society of Harford County, should assume responsibility for initiating further research and evaluation of the County's historic resources. To assure that resources from throughout the County are recognized, inventoried, and evaluated, it may be necessary to form ad hoc advisory panels representing the County's various communities, areas, and interests. For example, those who worked in Harford's once-important canning and slate-quarrying industries could aid in documenting remnants of those industrial enterprises or serve as prime subjects for an oral history program.

With nearly 2,000 historically significant sites already identified and entered in the "Inventory of Historic Sites," an evaluation of these sites should be made to ensure that local concerns, protection measures, and financial incentives are linked to a site's relative significance. The County, in cooperation with advisory groups and owners of historic sites should develop explicit, objective criteria which can be presented in a form readily understood by political leaders, public agencies, private real estate and business interests, and the general public. Criteria used for evaluating or listing historic properties should address issues such as a site's architecture, integrity, and historic or cultural context. Moreover, they must be clearly written and easily understood to ensure uniformity and objectivity in decision-making. The Maryland Historical Trust has recently developed a standard outline for evaluating historic contexts and uses it when nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

It is of course vital to keep the County's citizens informed about measures enacted to safeguard Harford's heritage. Thus, the precise location of all historic resources--and any legally protective designations they have--must be clearly mapped in an easily understood and readily available fashion. It is also essential that designations be recorded and easily accessible so that property owners, and property buyers, can be aware of the levels of protection each site requires. The best

tool currently available is the Geographic Information System (GIS). A computer system capable of holding and using data that describe places on the earth's surface, GIS enables the user to link many different types of data such as information about a place's hydrology, topography, land use, soils, and infrastructure. All historic designations should be easily accessible to attorneys and realtors to help them, and other interested parties, make market-place decisions. Methods to ensure that this occurs, such as recordation of such designations in the Land Records office at the County Courthouse or working with the Assessment Office to see if reminder notices to owners of Landmark properties, should be vigorously explored.

To further guarantee that historic preservation and restoration efforts remain responsive to local needs and concerns, the preservation community should be flexible in investigating alternative strategies and technologies. For example, State and Federal governments currently follow "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards" for restoration and preservation. These "Standards" do not always meet local needs and the County could consider adapting them as necessary or desirable. It should be noted that the County has previously crafted its own programs to meet its own needs. For example, Harford's historic preservation programs, unlike those of the State and Federal governments, require owner-consent if a building is to receive landmark designation or any other form of protection. This ensures that preservation flows "from the bottom up" and is not imposed "from the top down."

Indeed, the County has long recognized that it can not and should not undertake the protection of historic properties alone. Historic preservation requires the active support of the citizens who are aware of the importance of cultural resources and of the many tools available to help protect them. While Harford's population has generally supported historic preservation efforts, this support can be furthered through education programs which illustrate and explain the County's rich cultural heritage and also discuss actual preservation and restoration techniques. These "how-to" publications should cover topic such as masonry repair, what types of paint to use on older buildings, the latest technologies for insulation and weather-proofing, lead paint abatement, and ways of protecting important historic properties from "demolition by neglect." (See Appendix D.)

Motivated by a sense of pride, and armed with information about the latest in restoration tools and technologies, citizens will realize that maintaining historic properties is an honor, not a burden, and will readily work with the public sector to protect historic buildings and sites.

STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

The 1996 Master Plan sets forth "Stewardship of Our Resources" as a basic tenet for the protection of the County's irreplaceable historic architecture and archaeological resources. Historic resources provide a sense of continuity in time, of stability, and of durability. Familiar landmarks instill a loyalty to place and thus a commitment to the community and to the County. Preserving important historic sites, structures, and cultures will help Harford's citizens preserve the County's unique character and beauty, foster community pride, maintain the distinctive character of its neighborhoods and commercial and rural areas, and provide a framework for making appropriate physical change to accommodate future development. Historic resources must be considered in the development and planning processes. When demolition of these resources is necessary, they should be thoroughly documented for the benefit of future generations. The challenge is to weave the protection of historic resources into the planning system so as to maximize public support for the preservation of the County's heritage and minimize the impact on individual property rights.

Franklinville Road Bridge, near Joppa

GOAL: ***Use the County's historic architectural, cultural, and archaeological resources to help maintain and enhance the livability of the County's communities, villages, and landscapes.***

Objective One: Encourage the preservation and active reuse of historic structures in a manner suitable to each community.

Recommendations: The structures, features, architectural characteristics, and other cultural resources which help form each community's identity should be identified.

The County shall develop alternative regulations and guidelines so that new construction and adaptive reuse projects complement each community's unique historic character.

The County shall develop legislation to facilitate reuse of historic resources through modification of zoning codes, building codes, and other regulations while continuing to safeguard the public's health and safety.

The County will investigate buffer yard alternatives and other tools to ensure compatibility between historic sites and adjacent properties.

In the development of any future Transfer of Development Rights program (TDR), "receiving areas" should be selected and treated in a manner that respects historic structures and sites and protects the unique character of each community.

New businesses in and around rural villages should preserve the character of these communities and enhance their traditional roles as commercial and cultural centers.

The County should promote restoration and adaptive reuse of historic structures by the private sector.

The County and private preservation groups should encourage owners of historic properties to donate preservation easements on their properties.

Objective Two: Integrate historic preservation goals more fully into the development review and capital project planning process.

Recommendations: The Department of Planning and Zoning will continue to provide the Historic Preservation Commission with an opportunity to comment on development plans that affect designated historic resources during the concept plan or preliminary/ site plan review process.

The County shall continue to recognize the need to maintain the appropriate environmental settings of designated historic resources.

The Historic Preservation Commission and the Department of Planning and Zoning will endeavor to document historic and archaeological resources on a site to be developed.

The Historic Preservation Commission will review and comment on public capital projects that have an impact on historic resources.

The County will cooperate with citizen initiatives to preserve and protect its historic bridges, rural roads, and other infrastructure while respecting property owners' requests for service and/or public health and safety concerns.

The use of Conservation Development Standards (CDS) is encouraged when historic properties are being developed in rural areas to ensure greater flexibility in site planning, alterations, and new construction.

The Historic Preservation Commission shall review proposed zoning changes and building permits that affect properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places and provide comments to the Director of Planning and Zoning.

The Historic Preservation Commission, in cooperation with the Department of Planning and Zoning, shall seek to educate the development community about the value and benefit of preserving historic sites and communities.

The County should encourage the use of historic names for developments, roads, and schools so that citizens are reminded of their rich heritage.

Objective Three: Coordinate historic preservation activities with other local, State, and Federal programs

Recommendations: The County shall strive to coordinate its historic preservation efforts with the appropriate State and Federal offices, agencies, and departments.

The County shall ensure that historic sites are protected in a manner consistent with the State's policies regarding certified "heritage areas" and shall integrate its preservation planning with the State-enacted Heritage Corridor/Heritage Area programs.

The County shall strive to ensure that its preservation plan and programs complement those of the three municipalities as well as those of adjacent counties and townships.

The County shall work with the Cultural Resources Management Program within the Environmental, Conservation and Restoration Division of the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground, to safeguard and promote the valuable historic resources at that installation.

SUMMARY

There are strong interrelationships among growth management, revitalization efforts, and historic protection in Harford County. While much has been done to survey and record the County's many historic resources, more should be done to incorporate these sites into planning for anticipated development. Such incorporation may take the form of retaining an older structure and using it as the core of a new development or noting distinctive design features of a specific site or area and reinterpreting them in new construction. With increasing emphasis on revitalization of existing communities and directing growth to designated village centers, the importance of incorporating "heritage" into the planning process becomes increasingly important.

Design plans can pull together the various public and private interests needed to accomplish mutually agreeable goals and programs. Possible approaches could include: ensuring compatibility between new development and existing historic areas in the review of new development and special exceptions; creating transitional bulk, height, and scale requirements for new construction around low-scale historic commercial and residential areas; and devising design standards and site development review for new commercial, industrial, and higher intensity residential developments in historic areas. By maintaining the County's invaluable historic resources while providing for balanced growth, Harford County can assure the continuation of traditional functions and uses and the viability of its communities.

Because the County's historic communities differ in appearance and ambiance, studies should be made to determine what specific features make each community unique--what defines each community's identity. Property owners and business interests should strive to identify their "sacred places" as well as the design elements, constructions details, and building materials particular to the County's diverse communities and regions. These findings should shape any community design guidelines and it is likely that no two communities will have identical guidelines. The development of such design guidelines will further promote and encourage the revitalization of historic areas. Moreover, reinforcing a community's unique appearance and atmosphere, will enhance the community's sense of identity and help its character and history remain alive to enrich future generations.

The County has already identified a variety of tools in a study "Village Protection Strategies" (1997). This study recognized that villages and communities are more than physical entities. Besides collections of structures and natural features, villages might be viewed as collections "of people and their routines, civic and economic functions, activities, myths, and memories." Further preservation strategies for the County's historic villages and municipalities could help protect past and future investments by businessmen and property owners by assuring that alterations of historic structures are performed in a manner consistent with the community's historic and architectural character.

While Harford has experienced substantial population growth in the past few decades, much of the County remains rural in nature. Historic preservation should complement efforts to protect the County's remaining agricultural lands, as discussed in the 1993 Rural Plan Element of the Master Plan. Some of the County's most important historic and cultural resources are found on these farms. Care must be taken to preserve these resources. Current County development options such as Conservation Development Standards should be used when development of historic properties occurs to ensure that new development complements existing resources. In the development of a Transfer of Development Rights program (TDR), consideration should be given to designating "receiving areas" that accommodate new development while respecting the County's historic resources.

Efforts could be made to identify the remaining several-generation family-owned farms and to encourage their protection through easements. The State of Maryland offers various types of easement programs to owners of historic properties. Both the Maryland Historical Trust and the Maryland Environmental Trust actively solicit easements to protect sites and structures. The private organization known as Preservation Maryland also accepts easements as part of its efforts to safeguard the state's heritage. Some easements are purchased; others are donated. The Historic Preservation Commission can actively work with owners of historic properties to ensure that they are aware of the benefits of these programs and how they may be tailored to suit the particular needs of individuals. Preserving the scenic and aesthetic beauties of the County will obviously complement efforts to attract heritage area tourists, as is discussed in Part III, "Economic Enrichment," of this section of the Plan.

In addition, Maryland's "Smart Growth Act" of 1997 established a "Rural Legacy Program." This program can provide many more landowners with financial incentives to protect their land and cultural resources permanently. This program offers local organizations in the state the opportunity to apply for grants to preserve lands that existing agricultural conservation programs do not reach. In 1997, the Harford Land Trust joined with four private conservation organizations and with Harford and Baltimore Counties to apply for conservation of properties in an area along the Upper Gunpowder River, "The Piedmont Rural Legacy Project." Information about the financial rewards this program offers should be shared with residents of other rural areas. The creation of other Rural Legacy areas should be explored with grass-roots community support.

It is crucial that consideration of protected historic resources should remain a part of the public planning process, in both development review and capital project planning. In these endeavors, designated historic sites should be identified and input from the Historic Preservation Commission should continue to be received early in the process. For example, one member from the Historic Preservation Commission could serve as an ex-officio member of the Planning Advisory Board. Similarly, when designated historic resources are close to or within a proposed subdivision, comments from the Historic Preservation Commission should be provided during the preliminary plan review. Comments from the Historic Preservation Commission should also be sought on applications to the Board of Appeals for rezoning and special exceptions and in any transfer of development rights programs.

Preservation--and development--could also be made easier if there were greater flexibility in zoning and subdivision regulations. For example, through the BOCA National Building Code (published by

the Building Officials and Code Administrators, Inc.), Harford County has the authority to use flexibility in dealing with historic structures, providing the public's health, safety, and welfare are protected. For example, Section 3406.1 of the code reads, "The provisions of the code relating to the construction, repair, alteration, addition, restoration, and movement of structures shall not be mandatory for existing buildings and structures identified and classified by the federal, state, or local governments as historic buildings, where such buildings are judged by the code official to be safe and in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare regarding any proposed construction, alteration, repair, addition, or relocation." This provision should be sensitively administered to encourage appropriate use of historic resources. Similarly, requirements concerning access to publicly owned buildings stated in the American Disabilities Act and in the Code of Maryland are flexible when the building or site has been classed historic. The Department of Planning and Zoning and the Historic Preservation Commission should ensure that information about such provisions and exceptions is provided to the building community, tourism officials, and other County departments and agencies to help encourage the preservation and adaptive reuse of historic structures.

In addition, construction of new public facilities in the vicinity of historic resources should be carried out in a manner sensitive to maintaining the historic identity of an area or community. The design or placement of street lights, signs, gas meters, the choice and placement of street trees, the decision to finance underground wiring, and other public improvements can add to--or detract from--the character of historic areas and sites. The Department of Public Works, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Licenses and Permits, and other County departments and agencies should consider the effect on historic resources of the design and placement of such improvements.

Harford County itself owns some of the finest historic resources in the region such as the Liriodendron mansion, Swan Harbor Farm, and Eden Mill Park. The expertise of the Historic Preservation Commission is essential to ensure that when alteration or demolition of County-owned historic properties becomes necessary, it is accomplished sensitively. This philosophy was well expressed by the court in *Mayor and Alderman of City of Annapolis v. Anne Arundel County*, 316 A.2d 807 (Md. 1974), when it stated that it is necessary that resources "having historic or architectural value be preserved by everyone, whether a private citizen or a governmental body."

To achieve the ideas set forth in this plan, intra-governmental cooperation and compatibility is essential. The Federal government emphasized the importance of historic preservation in Executive Order 11593, which states that agencies of the Executive Branch shall assure that all plans and programs contribute to the preservation of both public and private historic sites. Federal agencies are also instructed by this Order to make nominations to the National Register for properties under their control and to refrain from demolition of structures until commented upon by the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. (That Order was later incorporated into the National Historic Preservation Act.) Harford County has continuously assisted professionals undertaking these initiatives at the Aberdeen Proving Ground and should continue to do so through citizens' groups such as the Historic Preservation Commission and the Historical Society of Harford County.

Municipal interest and cooperation are as essential to the success of the County's preservation program as those of the Federal government are. The Historic Preservation Commission should work closely with municipalities and their citizen advisory boards to explore the revitalization opportunities historic preservation affords. Much of the City of Havre de Grace is located in a National Register

Historic District and forms one focus of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway, making its citizens and property owners eligible for state and federal restoration tax benefits. In the 1980s, Aberdeen's citizens have established The Aberdeen Room, which has become the repository of information about that City's history. Of the three municipalities, both the Town of Bel Air and the City of Havre de Grace, currently have active Historic District Commissions. If residents in Aberdeen wish, the County's Historic Preservation Commission could work with them, the Maryland Historical Trust, and the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions to revitalize local preservation commissions in that city. To ensure coordination among the municipalities, the Aberdeen Proving Ground, and the many volunteer groups that maintain small museums throughout the County and that safeguard and collect material on Harford's heritage, there should be semi-annual meetings among representatives of these organizations to share information and to discuss progress to date and possible initiatives for the future.

ECONOMIC ENRICHMENT

Concord point Lighthouse, Havre de Grace

Preserving the County's architectural and cultural heritage makes economic sense. Heritage tourism--visiting significant historical, cultural, and natural places--is among the fastest-growing sectors of tourism in the State of Maryland. Harford's many historic sites, easily accessible to travelers and close to many established tourist destinations, suggest that heritage tourism could offer a real boost to the County's economy. Efforts are underway to further this heritage tourism initiative in the County through the establishment of a Maryland Heritage Area. Thus, ensuring the preservation of the County's architectural and cultural resources is a vital element in the long-term success of heritage tourism. In addition, the maintenance and restoration of Harford's historic legacy offers employment opportunities for skilled craftsmen and artisans. Preservation also provides benefits such as stabilizing and increasing property values, thereby increasing the local tax base.

GOAL: ***Contribute to the economic development and vitality of the County.***

Objective One: Promote heritage area tourism.

Recommendations: In conjunction with Discover Harford, the County will encourage tourists to visit historic sites and districts by working with other jurisdictions to create tours that include sites within the entire region.

Through public/private partnerships, the County will promote the publication of maps, booklets, and brochures that enable visitors to conduct self-guided tours of publicly- accessible historic sites and districts.

The County will encourage non-profit groups, the Chamber of Commerce, and other private organizations to sponsor tours of historic properties and to create exhibits that celebrate the past achievements of Harford's citizens.

The County will support the development of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway as a State Certified Heritage Area and will work with the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway, Inc. to implement those portions of the Heritage Area Management Plan that apply to Harford County.

Objective Two: Ensure the long-term economic viability of historic structures and sites in the County.

Recommendations: The County should coordinate opportunities for training artisans and craftsmen in historic preservation and restoration techniques and technologies with museums and other private-sector groups.

The County will encourage citizen efforts to develop a "restoration depot" at which elements of demolished buildings in the County could be stored and made available for reuse in other older buildings in the County.

The County will continue its partnerships with small museums and other private organizations that promote the preservation of historic sites and/or the disseminating of information about the County's history and heritage.

The Historic Preservation Commission will investigate alternatives for funding a program of grants and low-interest loans to those who wish to acquire or restore historically significant properties and shall award such monies in a manner that reflects the relative importance of properties.

The County will investigate a program of tax benefits to encourage restoration of designated historic properties.

The County will actively seek grants to support its historic preservation efforts.

SUMMARY

Located along the main travel route connecting New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C., Harford County is easily accessible to millions of visitors each year. Historic and cultural travel is a growing trend in the travel industry. According to a study by the Travel Industry Association of America, nearly 54 million adults visited a historic site or museum within the last year; moreover, these travelers, according to studies, spend more time at their destinations than other travelers. Harford County's rich array of historic resources--many of which are regularly open to the public--could make it a prime destination for history-minded tourists. In 1990, Harford ranked tenth among the state's counties in the amount of tourist-generated income, garnering an estimated 100 million of Maryland's 7 billion tourist dollars that year.

The County's array of existing tourist attractions, including a wealth of small museums, span a wide spectrum of interests. Virtually every tourist would be attracted by something the County offers: the U. S. Army Ordnance Museum at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Ladew Topiary Gardens, the proposed Maritime Museum, the Susquehanna Museum of Havre de Grace at the Lockhouse, the Historical Society of Harford County headquarters, Steppingstone Farm Museum, Jerusalem Mill, the Hays House, Rock Run Mill, the Decoy Museum, the Concord Point Lighthouse, the Hosanna Community House, the Old Line Museum, the McComas Institute, the skipjack Martha Lewis, and the Ripken Museum. A number of the museums and publicly accessible historic sites are, in whole or in part, County owned; these include Liriodendron, Swan Harbor, and Eden Mill.

The rich diversity of the County's cultural resources could be used to create tours arranged and promoted by specific themes. Some obvious themes include military history, agriculture and canning, architectural history, gardening and natural features, African-American heritage, the Underground Railroad, horse racing and breeding, religion, milling, and the Industrial Revolution.

It is important to determine what type of tourism is appropriate for each heritage site--and its surrounding community. Care should be taken to study the impact of tourism positive and negative on sites, residents, and the community and then to craft an appropriate tourism strategy. Recognizing that heritage tourism's importance to local economies seems destined to increase markedly in the future, organizations such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation have established five principles to guide any partnerships between heritage-resources and tourism. These are: (1) "Focus on authenticity and quality"; (2) "Preserve and protect resources"; (3) "Make sites come alive"; (4)

"Collaborate"; and (5) "Find the fit between your community and tourism." Regarding that last point, the Trust notes, "Heritage tourism is only appropriate and sustainable if the following issues have been addressed: the carrying capacity of historic sites has been determined so that the resource is not compromised; residents have determined that tourism is an appropriate--and desired--form of economic growth; local leaders have recognized the investment required to develop and maintain a heritage tourism program; the infrastructure and appropriate visitor services are available to accommodate varied tourism markets; and perhaps most important, a vision has been set for the area defining the expected benefits of tourism to enhance residents' quality of life."

Also important to this effort is the experience of the visitor. Tourists must feel welcome and interaction with residents and merchants is an important component of the heritage experience. Thus, the County, in cooperation with groups such as the Chamber of Commerce and Discover Harford, should support programs to educate residents and businesses in appropriate methods to welcome visitors. Perhaps through existing tourism promotion organizations, area schools and civic organizations can work to assure that the "person in the street" has a good sense of the area's history. While Harford County is not--and should not be--in the "museum business," its efforts to maintain and promote such historic sites should continue. The County should support and encourage private groups to create brochures and maps about Harford County's historic attractions and to see to it that they are distributed to motels and hotels, travellers' areas such as the Maryland House on I-95, train stations, airports, and travel-agents. For example, in North Carolina, every rest area along I-95 has an exhibit of nearby historic sites.

Care should also be taken to ensure that Harford's historic sites are accurately publicized in guidebooks (such as those published by the AAA) and in regional and local magazines and newspapers. Such efforts are best conducted jointly with private tourist-promotion organizations such as Discover Harford and the Chamber of Commerce.

An example of how these initiatives can be accomplished can be seen in the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway. Recognized by the State as a Maryland Heritage Area in 1997, the Lower Susquehanna encompasses an area rich in historic, cultural, and natural features. It includes one of America's largest rural National Register Historic Districts, the Lower Deer Creek Valley Historic District, as well as the Havre de Grace Historic District, which is also listed in the National Register. Through the efforts of local citizens, business leaders, and government representatives, the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway is moving forward with the development of a management plan that will direct an overall effort to market the many features of the region. This project will promote partnerships among local governments, tourism and hospitality leaders, and representatives of historic preservation, cultural and natural resource organizations. Building on these partnerships, citizens and businesses within the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway will become eligible for a range of financial incentives and technical assistance including grants, loans, tax incentives, and focused investment from the State.

While individual museums or publicly-accessible attractions draw many people, the overall character of the area adds to the experience of heritage tourists and encourages them to prolong their visit. Thus it is vital to any heritage tourism effort that privately-owned historic properties are well preserved and attractive. To accomplish this, many private property owners need financial incentives to maintain historic resources. Currently, the only "carrot" offered to owners of Harford County

Landmarks is some property tax relief for restoration work. To assist private property owners in maintaining their historic properties, the County should explore all possible tools. These might include locally-generated preservation grant and loan funds. Such funds might be used to encourage individuals and organizations to purchase, rehabilitate, and resell (or lease) historic properties with protective covenants; to move endangered buildings; and to purchase options. A revolving loan fund could also be established so that moneys lent could be returned to the County. In addition, property owners in recognized Heritage Areas are eligible for an array of financial benefits, including grants. Such grants have historically contributed significantly to the local economy since state and federal programs have been used to supply "seed money" as incentives for local government and private-sector investment.

Revitalizing older residential and commercial neighborhoods is valuable, not only in upgrading the quality of life but also in assisting and promoting individual home ownership, increased employment, increased business profits, and real growth in the economy. Local communities, businesses, and individuals are increasingly discovering the economic advantage of finding new uses for old buildings, "adaptive reuse". Nationwide, recent surveys have discovered that adaptive reuse accounts for about one-third of all construction activity. Another facet of adaptive reuse is recycling details from demolished structures such as mantels and stained glass. The County should investigate creating a "restoration depot," as other jurisdictions in Maryland have done, to ensure that unique parts of Harford's architectural heritage remain useful and of benefit to citizens.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

For well over a century, private organizations such as The Historical Society of Harford County and successive County administrations have, in partnership, done much to foster an understanding and appreciation of Harford County's rich history through cooperative efforts such as publications, lectures, and historical markers. Nevertheless, the development and continued success of Harford County's historic preservation programs, and their attendant tangible economic and environmental benefits, requires broad-based understanding and support. The County must, therefore, work with the municipalities, the schools, and historic and museums groups, and other organizations to

Land of Promise, near Lapidum; now adaped for use as the Steppingstone Museum.

further a general understanding of how the historic buildings, archaeological resources, and present and vanished cultures contribute to the continued liveability, prosperity, and attractiveness of Harford County.

GOAL: ***Foster a sense of civic pride and an understanding and appreciation of the County's heritage among its citizens.***

Objective One: Promote the collecting, preservation, and cataloging of oral histories, written materials, and other artifacts linked to the history of Harford County people, places, and events and ensure that they are available for research.

Recommendations: The County will work with programs such as "Harford's Living Treasures" to promote the systematic collection of written and oral histories.

The County will support the Historical Society of Harford County and its mission of providing long-term maintenance of relevant archives, legal materials, vintage photographs, and other research materials and actively encourage citizens to make supervised use of these resources.

The County will encourage private efforts to create a central catalog of research-related materials concerning Harford County's history and heritage.

Objective Two: Encourage publication of material relating to the County's heritage.

Recommendations: The Historic Preservation Commission, the Historical Society of Harford County, and other citizens' groups should encourage scholarly research and publications on the many diverse aspects of the County's history and heritage.

Objective Three: Promote student awareness of the County's history and heritage

Recommendations: The County will work with public and private schools to ensure that elements relating to local history are included in the curricula of the elementary, middle, and upper-level school systems.

The County, in partnership with private organizations, should ensure that experts on local history and archaeology are available to assist with school and community programs.

The County will work with the Harford Community College and other institutions of higher learning to promote courses and events relating to Harford County history.

The County will continue to provide presentations on Harford's history to educators and school administrators.

Objective Four: Maintain a broad outreach history education system throughout the County.

Recommendations: The County will assist and encourage public and private organizations to curate and sponsor workshops, symposia, and displays that highlight various aspects of the County's history and heritage.

The County will assist private organizations in obtaining lists of knowledgeable inhabitants who can speak on Harford's history and heritage.

The County, in conjunction with the Historic Preservation Commission, the Historical Society of Harford County, and the Maryland Historical Trust, will continue to promote National Historic Preservation Week.

The County, in conjunction with organizations such as the Harford Land Trust, Manor Conservancy, Preservation Maryland, and both the Maryland Historical and Environmental Trusts, will assist efforts to develop and implement an outreach program to educate private property owners about the advantages of granting easements, methods of obtaining restoration grants, and other ways to preserve the County's heritage.

The County shall ensure that standards for the protection of historic sites are made available to the general citizenry by means of brochures, pamphlets, and work shops.

The County, through local museums, the public library system, tourism agencies, the Chamber of Commerce, and other public and private organizations, will help municipalities and private groups prepare and promote walking tours, house tours of historic districts, exhibits about historic subjects, and other forms of "historic public relations."

SUMMARY

The County's land use planning efforts incorporate "stewardship of resources" as a universal ethic. The promotion of this concept is vital to the long-term conservation of these resources. Education is the main tool the County can use to encourage historic preservation and adaptive reuse. Therefore it is urgent that research into the County's historic properties and cultures continues, since knowledge forms the basis of all intelligent decision-making. The Historic Preservation Commission should work to involve as many divergent groups in this research as possible. Hitherto underused sources of information about Harford's past include the County's seniors and other long-time residents. The memories of these "Living Treasures" should be preserved through oral history programs. As the taped interviews are completed, the tapes should be transcribed and copies made available to all citizens through the public library system.

A proactive, county-wide public relations effort should be undertaken to increase citizens' understanding of the benefits of historic preservation. This effort to promote historic preservation must be a joint effort of public and private organizations, each supporting and complementing the other. Every historic preservation group and museum in the County should be encouraged to participate with the Historic Preservation Commission, the Chamber of Commerce, Discover Harford, and other similar umbrella groups to disseminate information about the County's history and cultures.

Actual promotional efforts could include: establishing a speakers' bureau; creating permanent and movable exhibitions and displays; organizing tours for school children and seniors; planning conferences and workshops; encouraging the inclusion of preservation-related educational courses in schools; sponsoring community projects; organizing and supporting special events such as open houses and tours of historic properties and community archaeological digs; and using many media--including newspapers, magazines, cd-Rom, radio, newsletters, books, brochures, and slide and video programs--to remind citizens of their rich cultural heritage.

Since it is good policy to praise fine examples of restoration work and adaptive reuse, the Historic Preservation Commission has reestablished its annual preservation awards ceremonies, held each May as part of the National Historic Preservation Month. Similarly, to generate widespread familiarity with the County's historic resources, the Commission should cooperate with existing groups which publish annual calendars to ensure that the calendars are well-illustrated with photographs of historic sites.

The laws and rules pertaining to historic preservation as well as to the actual restoration and adaptive reuse of historic properties are constantly being refined and brought up-to-date. To ensure that all interested parties are kept aware of these changes, Harford's historic preservation community should sponsor regular workshops and symposia for realtors, attorneys, bankers, developers, architects, and citizens on topics such as tax benefits available for restoration work, advantages of granting preservation easements, how to market historic properties, and changes in construction technology. In addition, to fuel the preservation movement and to assist owners of historic properties, the Commission should publish a series of "fact sheets" on topics such as the maintenance of historic houses, rehabilitation techniques, and historically correct landscapes.

The development of this Historic Preservation Element Plan signals the County's willingness to strive to identify new ways to improve public awareness of protecting the irreplaceable historic resources, cultural richness and diversity, and shared heritage that have been built up during Harford's 5,000 years of human habitation.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN HARFORD COUNTY: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Top ▲

Partnerships forged between citizens and public and private agencies and organizations have long characterized Harford County's historic preservation efforts. These partnerships are important for many pragmatic reasons. For example, the partners can pool resources (such as data, staff, and research), share information, eliminate duplicate work, and discuss issues that do not adhere to political boundaries such as large historic districts. Partnerships among people are vital to any policy development in the County. Individual citizens, towns, and historic and community organizations have always been encouraged to participate in county-wide preservation efforts. Moreover, the County has always believed in the principle of "owner consent." As a result, prior to designating a resource "historic," Harford County has always first obtained a written agreement from the property owner(s).

Volunteer Beginnings

Harford Countians' interest in local history and preservation runs deep. That possibly explains Hulbert Footner's comment in his landmark study, *Maryland Main and the Eastern Shore* (1942), that "Harford possesses the most intense county-consciousness" of any jurisdiction in the state. In 1885 Countians organized the Historical Society of Harford County, the oldest county historical society in Maryland and among the oldest in the nation.

Generations of society members, professional or ardent amateur historians all, have published articles and books on Harford's past, including Dr. W. Stump Forwood's *Aegis* series on "The Homes of Deer Creek" (1879-80), the Rev. T.T. Wysong's pamphlet on "The Rocks of Deer Creek" (1880), A. P. Silver's "History of Lapidum" (1888), Judge Walter Preston's comprehensive *istory of Harford County* (1901), and C. Milton Wright's *Our Harford Heritage* (1967). The Historical Society continues its publishing efforts through its highly successful quarterly, "Harford Historical Bulletin," which "is directed to all who have interest in the history of Harford County" and which furthers the Society's goals of "encouraging the study, promotion, and preservation of Harford's rich historical and cultural heritage."

In 1960, Society members undertook one of the County's first public/private preservation efforts. Safeway Foods had purchased a lot at the intersection of Main Street and U.S. Route 1 in Bel Air and planned to build a grocery store on it. The property contained the venerable Hays-Jacobs House, built in 1789, purchased by the "Father of Bel Air," Thomas Hays, in 1811, and then lived in and added to by generations of his descendants. The food store planned to demolish the ancient house, but Society members, led by its president, W. Paul Hicks II, convinced the company to give the Society the original frame section of the house. The Board of Education donated one acre of land

on the Bel Air High School site; and the Hays House was moved to it. Subsequently, the County government agreed to take actual title to the Hays House (as it is now called) and the Society agreed to oversee the building's maintenance and operation as a museum.

In 1997, the Society gained its first permanent home when the County deeded the old United States Post Office in Bel Air to it. Thanks to hundreds of volunteer hours, the Society is able to offer its invaluable archival, genealogical, and library resources to students and to the general public.

In 1930, historians and lovers of beauty throughout the state organized the first annual Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, the second such state-wide event in the nation. Significantly, among those who organized that initial Pilgrimage one finds Harford Countians Gilman Paul (Land of Promise) and Harriet--Mrs. Alexis--Shriver (Olney) who saw to it that the early tours included several sites in Harford County. Gilman Paul and Alexis Shriver also played key roles in urging the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) to create its first period room, which opened in 1925. One of the BMA's greatest treasures is a staircase from the Dallam family's c. 1750 house, Fanny's Inheritance, which arrived at the museum through the combined efforts of the owner, the J. Smith Michael family and Gilman Paul, who sat on the BMA board and urged the museum to accept it.

More recently, in the 1980s, Aberdonians established its Aberdeen Room and thanks to citizen-volunteers, that museum and research center has become a widely-recognized repository for material relating to all aspects of the community's rich history. Even more recently, Havre de Grace's citizens created a museum to preserve and record their heritage; called the Susquehanna Museum of Havre de Grace at the Lockhouse (and located in the old Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal Lockhouse), it has already gained renown throughout the region for its thorough--and accessible--documentation of the city's splendid past.

Public-Private Partnerships

Many State and Federal laws deal directly and indirectly with preservation of historic properties and archaeological sites. Congress passed the first Federal law for the protection and preservation of archaeological sites on federal land in 1906 (The Antiquities Act of 1906; Public Law No. 59-209). This Act provided for criminal sanctions for anyone damaging historic or prehistoric sites or "objects of antiquity" on federal land without permission. It also authorized President Theodore Roosevelt and his successors in the White House to declare historic and prehistoric sites national monuments to be managed by the federal government. This Act, as far as it pertains to archeological resources, was largely superseded by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, which, among other things, establishes a permit application for the excavation and removal of archaeological resources on federally-owned lands. It also requires federal agencies to develop public awareness programs. This Act clearly affects Harford County, with its large Bay-fronting army installations, which take in approximately 52,000 acres of land and water.

In 1966, Congress passed the National Historic Preservation Act. This authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, through the National Park Service, to maintain and expand a National Register of Historic Places and mandates public and local involvement in the nomination process. It also provides for the gubernatorial appointment of State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs), establishes the historic

preservation fund, and requires that regulations, standards, and guidelines be developed for establishing and operating Federal and State historic preservation programs and Tribal preservation programs. It also establishes the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and requires the Department of the Interior to develop regulations to ensure that federally owned or controlled archaeological collections be deposited in institutions with adequate long-term curatorial capability.

In Maryland the SHPO is the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT). The MHT, created by the state legislature in 1961, oversees public preservation efforts in Maryland. Since the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the MHT has been authorized to receive and distribute grant funds from the Secretary of the Interior for the purpose of (1) conducting comprehensive state-wide surveys of historic structures and sites, (2) restoring historic structures, and (3) preparing comprehensive preservation plans. To keep its professional staff apprised of local preservation issues, the Trust created a system of twenty-four all-volunteer county committees--one for each County and one for Baltimore City.

Harford County's citizens began their historic preservation partnership efforts in 1966, when volunteers organized a Harford County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust. The County government joined the partnership in 1969 when it and the MHT cosponsored a "windshield survey" to locate, identify, and photograph important buildings and sites. That first effort produced approximately 900 entries in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (or "the Inventory"). Following this, the County and the MHT have jointly hired other professionals both to add sites to that first list and to prepare longer descriptions of more important sites. These historians not only added approximately 500 sites to the inventory, they also worked, with citizens, to nominate many properties to the National Register of Historic Places, a list maintained by the Department of the Interior as mentioned above and more fully discussed below. As of 1997, approximately 2,000 buildings, structures, and sites in Harford County have been listed in the Inventory.

Harford County's government has long been aware of the important role historic preservation can play in ensuring a high quality of life. Article X Section 267-59 of the Harford County Code states that "the protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of structures and sites of special character or historical interest or value is a public necessity " in order to:

1. Effect and accomplish the protection, enhancement and perpetuation of such improvements and of districts that represent or reflect elements of the county's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history.
2. Safeguard the county's historic and cultural heritage as embodied and reflected in such landmarks and historic districts.
3. Stabilize and improve property values.
4. Foster civic pride in the beauty and accomplishments of the past.
5. Protect and enhance the county's attractions to residents, tourists and visitors and serve as a support and stimulus to business and industry.
6. Strengthen the economy of the county.
7. Promote the use of historic districts and landmarks for the education, pleasure and welfare of the people of the county.

In November of 1974, the Harford County Council enacted Bill No. 74-51 to provide "for the preservation and protection of Historic Sites in Harford County" and to create an all-volunteer Historic District Commission (later renamed the Historic Preservation Commission). Members, selected from a list nominated collectively by the Harford County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust and the Historical Society of Harford County, would consist of "citizens interested and active in historic preservation." Throughout its existence, the Commission has consisted of citizens with diverse interests and training: architects, educators, attorneys, farmers, and those who have taken up architecture and history as avocations.

Four years later, the Council empowered the Commission to function as an advisory body to the Department of Planning and Zoning. One of the group's first projects was to obtain a grant and hire architects with the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) to make measured drawings of two properties in Bel Air that were about to be demolished: the Masonic Temple and the Harford National Bank. The Commission and HABS also arranged to photograph thoroughly the historic mansion Liriodendron (and its outbuildings), which the County had purchased to preserve as a museum.

Harford County's three incorporated municipalities have undertaken preservation efforts of their own. In 1977, the City of Havre de Grace contracted for a thorough survey of historic sites; as part of this effort, the City created a historic district, which encompasses most of the downtown area. In 1978, the Town of Bel Air undertook a comprehensive survey of historic sites in town; this resulted in a book, *Bel Air: The Town Through its Buildings*. In 1995, the Town updated the survey and incorporated the new findings in a revised book, *Bel Air: An Architectural and Cultural History 1782-1945*. The Town also established its own Historic District Commission. As part of the ongoing County-wide survey efforts, historians have included approximately 40 sites in the Town of Aberdeen in the Inventory. Currently Aberdeen does not have an active historic preservation group. Should the municipality wish to organize one, members of the Historic Preservation Commission have offered to work with them and with Maryland Historical Trust staff to assist any such effort.

To encourage sharing of information and other benefits which can be derived from cooperation among jurisdictions, the Harford County Historic Preservation Commission--and the parallel organizations in the municipalities--have long supported the work of the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions (MAHDC). Based in Frederick, MAHDC organizes workshops and conferences, publishes a quarterly newsletter, and acts as a general clearing house for preservation-related matters. As of 1997, 31 local commissions maintain MAHDC membership. These organizations range in scale from the Sykesville Historic District Commission to the Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation and span the state from the Berlin Historic District Commission in Worcester County to the Frostburg Historic District Commission in Garrett.

Historic Preservation Protection Programs

The National Register of Historic Places

The County, State, and Federal governments have enacted an array of programs to recognize and protect historic properties. The National Register, mentioned above, is a list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology,

engineering, and culture. Properties in the Register must possess historic significance; to be listed, a property must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Be associated with historic events or activities; or
- Be associated with important persons; or
- Possess distinctive design or physical characteristics; or
- Possess potential to provide important information about prehistory or history.

To evaluate a property's significance, the site must be placed in a historic or prehistoric context. Because historic contexts are organized by place and time, they link properties to important trends on local, state, or national levels. Themes often relate to the development of a community or area, such as commercial and industrial activities; Harford County themes have included industrial history such as milling and canning. Themes may also relate to specific artistic and architectural movements; Harford County themes have included the rise of Gothic Revival architecture.

Listing in the National Register also requires that properties maintain a high percentage of their historic "fabric" such as walls, roof lines, setting, and floorplans. While National Register staff recognize that changes do occur to buildings over time, the property must retain features from the time when it gained its importance. As an example, the importance of Liriodendron primarily lays in its association with its first owner, Dr. Howard A. Kelly. The Register staff asked if Dr. Kelly somehow returned to Liriodendron today, would he recognize it? They determined that enough of the building and setting remained from Dr. Kelly's time, i.e., it possessed "historic integrity," and listed it. Similarly, if one were evaluating the significance of the Jerusalem Mill Village, one would need to explain the general importance of the milling industry to the region's early growth, point out the specific importance of the mill, the blacksmith shop, the mill owner's house, and other buildings in the village, and assess how much original fabric remains. Sometimes National Register staff use "site" and "district" ambiguously: Olney Farm and Whitaker Mill, for instance, may sound like sites but are in fact classed as districts because each contains a wide variety of individual structures and buildings.

The Harford County Code specifically empowers the Historic Preservation Commission "to nominate Landmarks and Historic Districts to the National Register of Historic Places." (See 267-66.G.) Before any such process is begun, the County requires a signed statement from the property's owner(s) agreeing to such a nomination. In the case of creating historic districts, demonstrated substantial support is a prerequisite for the County to undertake such action. As of 1997, there were more than 70 individual sites and districts in Harford County listed in the National Register. (See Appendix B and Figure 2.)

The Register program is part of a national policy to recognize and protect the country's historic and cultural heritage. Listing in the Register offers several benefits. It provides recognition that can contribute to preservation efforts; it makes owners eligible for various restoration grants and tax benefits; and it helps protect listed properties from federally or state funded or licensed construction projects such as roads and dams by triggering review by the SHPO. If such a project is deemed to have an adverse impact on a National Register property, the agency wishing to undertake the endeavor must prove (1) that the project is necessary and (2) that there is no reasonable alternative. Listing does not restrict what private owners, using private funds, may do to the property; it does not

in any way limit an owner's property rights. No standards are imposed on maintenance, and no government agency's approval is required for any alteration, sale, or even demolition of a listed property other than the permits and licenses, typically required.

National Historic Landmarks

From the National Register, Department of the Interior staff select certain properties to be designated National Historic Landmarks (NHLs). Generally the criteria that apply for National Register listing also apply for National Historic Landmarks; however, NHLs must be, in the words of the Department of the Interior, of "transcendent importance" to the history and development of the United States. As with the Register, NHL listing does not limit what private property owners may do with their property. Listing does trigger the same review process when public funds underwrite, in all or in part, a project. NHL listing, however, requires that the agency proposing the project prove (1) that the project is necessary and (2) that there is no (not "no reasonable") alternative. Harford County contains one National Historic Landmark; it is Sion Hill, overlooking the Chesapeake Bay near Havre de Grace and home to generations of the Rodgers family, internationally celebrated for their contributions to the history and development of the United States Navy.

Harford County's Preservation Efforts

In 1978, Harford County devised its own method for recognizing historically important properties by creating a "Historic District and Landmark List" and "to provide an official list of historic landmarks in accordance with the requirements of the law." In 1984, County Council adopted legislation that clarified the powers and duties of the Historic District Commission (renamed the Historic Preservation Commission or HPC) and established more specific standards and processes for nominating Harford County Landmarks. For instance, to ensure that such designations remain voluntary, the Harford County Code states that "the Commission shall inform the owner of the property, by registered mail, of the nomination" and "if the owner does not agree to the nomination and/or designation, all action pertaining to the site shall cease." (See 267-72.A.) As of 1997, there are 24 designated Harford County Landmarks. (See Appendix C.) In 1984, the Department of Planning and Zoning also established the permanent position of Preservation Planner to assist the HPC, to respond to citizen and governmental inquires about historic sites, to act as liaison between history-minded private groups and the County government, to encourage and assist private property owners to nominate sites to the National Register or County Landmarks lists, and to generally oversee preservation efforts in Harford County.

In 1992, the Harford County Council adopted Bill No. 92-36, "Preservation of Historic Property." Through this legislation, the County enumerated 31 publicly-owned buildings and structures of historic importance. The list includes county office buildings, structures in parks, bridges, and schools. To guarantee that these important properties remain intact for the education and benefit of future generations, County agencies and departments must work with the Historic Preservation Commission to seek alternatives should they wish to alter or demolish these listed structures.

The County continues to refine its preservation programs. *The 1996 Master Plan and the 1996 Land Use Element Plan* includes Historic Preservation in its discussion of "Growth Management and

Resource Conservation." This section notes, in part, that "The County recognizes the importance of preserving historic structures, landscapes, and sites which contribute greatly to community pride and provide the context of the County's unique character." Towards this end, the County has developed several public/private partnerships to explore the benefits of heritage area tourism.

Heritage Areas

In 1992, a partnership of local officials, community leaders, and private organizations formed the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway (LSHG) in part to obtain recognition of the area as a Maryland Heritage Area. The Greenway was designated as a Maryland Certified Heritage Area in March of 2001. Recognizing the importance of this certification, the LSHG Management Plan has, by reference, been incorporated into the Historic Preservation Plan, as to those portions of the Greenway located in Harford County. The Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway, located along the banks of the Susquehanna River in Harford and Cecil counties, contains many important museums, ecologically significant features, and historic sites. These will be connected by a series of looping paths. The Greenway is designed to link, promote, and protect these outstanding resources. A committee has been established to coordinate activities among the area's private citizens, private and public organizations, businesses, and governments.

Education Programs

Strongly believing that education is the key to achieving preservation partnerships between the public and private sectors, the County maintains a strong outreach program. In 1990, it agreed to co-publish (with the Johns Hopkins University Press) a comprehensive study of the County's buildings and historic sites. *An Architectural History of Harford County, Maryland*, was published in 1996 and is intended to help citizens understand and appreciate the richness of the County's architectural heritage. In 1997 the County and the Historic Preservation Commission prepared a pamphlet which outlines the complex system of Federal, State, and County "Tax Incentive for Restoration of Historic Buildings."

The County has also continued to pursue grant funds to further its education efforts. In 1994, for example, the County obtained MHT grant funds to expand the inventory of historic buildings and sites in the Whiteford-Cardiff community and to investigate "Rural Village Protection Strategies." More recently, the County has begun a sophisticated mapping of historic structures and sites; this, when completed, will be included as part of its Geographic Information System (GIS) and will greatly increase the County's ability to locate, preserve, and disseminate information about historic properties.

The County also maintains, through another public/private partnership, a thorough system of outreach and assistance to educate the public about preservation programs. For instance, working with the Historical Society, the County identifies speakers who can discuss Harford County history to civic groups and school classes. Similarly, the County Code charges members of the all-volunteer Historic Preservation Commission "to advise and assist owners of Landmarks...on physical and financial aspects of preservation, renovation, rehabilitation, and reuse, and on procedures for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. (See 267-66.G.)

Harford's citizens currently maintain several special interest preservation-related clubs and groups as well as an array of small museums. All these resources contribute to defining the character of Harford's diverse communities. Joppa-area residents, for example, support the Little Gunpowder Improvement Association and the Friends of Jerusalem Mill; that latter group recently masterminded and oversaw the complete restoration of the historic mill (1772), blacksmith's shop (c. 1800), and other historic structures in the mill village, a National Register Historic District. They also act as custodians for the Joppa archaeological site, consisting of the foundations of the 18th-century St. John's Church, located near the privately-owned Rumsey Mansion.

Bel Air area residents have established the Bel Air American History Club and are fortunate to have easy access to the headquarters of the Historical Society of Harford County, located in the old United States Post Office on North Main Street. The Harford Community College, centered on the historic stone Hays-Heighe House and located between Churchville and Bel Air, has taken justifiable pride in its tradition of offering an array of local history courses.

Aberdeen, whose history has been shaped by the canning industry and the federal government, contains the privately operated Ripken Museum as well as the Ordnance Museum at Aberdeen Proving Ground and the Aberdeen Room, a treasure trove of the City's heritage. The Harford Archaeological Society, whose members work County-wide, has conducted many digs on the Bay-front lands around Aberdeen and has often mounted exhibitions of their findings.

Nearby, in the waterfront City of Havre de Grace, public/private partnerships operate a wealth of education-oriented historic properties including the Decoy Museum, the Susquehanna Museum of Havre de Grace at the Lockhouse, the skipjack Martha Lewis, the Concord Point Lighthouse and O'Neill House, and the proposed Maritime Museum. Havre de Grace also boasts Swan Harbor Farm: purchased by the County in 1994 and maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation, which has carefully preserved the historic significance of the buildings and grounds, the magnificent 460-acre estate will house the Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation. This public/private partnership will allow the County to educate school children about Harford's rich agricultural heritage. In 1997, citizens formed another public-private partnership to develop a "Havre de Grace Heritage Corridor" within the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway. The partnership of City officials, community leaders, museums, and businesses have established a Havre de Grace Heritage Corridor Management Council whose members will "identify actions to market the historical, natural, recreational, and cultural values of the Havre de Grace region and increase the region's community vitality and economic prosperity" and will specifically target the City's wealth of historic resources.

Citizens in the County's rural areas have displayed just as strong a commitment to preservation and conservation as those who live in towns. Residents in the Darlington-Dublin area support the Deer Creek Watershed Association, whose members proved so helpful in having the Lower Deer Creek Valley listed as a National Register Historic District, and the annual Darlington Apple Festival. Whiteford-Cardiff area residents celebrate their Welsh heritage with an annual Welsh Festival; the community's collective memory may be said to be housed in the Old Line Museum, located near the Mason-Dixon Line at the Whiteford-Delta border. Additionally, in the 1970s, citizens in the Monkton-Jarrettsville area worked with their neighbors in Baltimore County to create the My Lady's Manor Historic District, a 5,000-acre district which includes land in both jurisdictions.

Several historic properties, thanks to volunteer staffing, open to educate the public. These include the Steppingstone Museum, the Hosanna School, and structures in the Susquehanna State Park such as the Rock Run Mill, the Carter-Archer House, and the ruins of the Stafford Flint Mill. Located near Pylesville, the Highland Commons facility provides a library, day-care and senior center, and headquarters for the Highland Community Association.

Many north county historic sites, while privately owned, contribute to the education and enrichment of Harford's citizenry. Among these one would certainly list the Broad Creek Scout Camp, which draws scouts from throughout the region. In addition, since the 1960s, Harford Countians, along with their My Lady's Manor neighbors in Baltimore County, have maintained the Ladew Topiary Gardens. The nonprofit, private group that runs Ladew, supported generously by 1,700 members, has ensured that the renowned topiary garden is maintained for the enjoyment and education of the 40,000 visitors from throughout the world who annually come to Harford County to visit the National Register site. Its board has also adopted "public education" as an integral part of its mission statement. To those ends, Ladew annually sponsors two widely-acclaimed lecture series: one in the fall attracts internationally-known speakers on garden design, architectural history, and related fields; spring workshops, on the other hand, tend to address more practical matters such as pruning shrubs and propagating plants.

IMPLEMENTATION

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Strategies for the Future

This Plan contains a series of recommendations needed to strengthen Harford County's long-standing commitment to historic preservation. During the development of the Plan, discussions with individual citizens, public interest groups, and professional staff within the Harford County government, have yielded a series of priorities for these initiatives and an overall work program. This program assumes a five-year time-frame because the County's comprehensive Master Plan and Land Use Element Plan, written in 1996, will be updated in 2002; that update and review could well support the need for updating this Preservation Element Plan (see Action Plan Timeline).

Not all of the initiatives will be accomplished at the same rate of speed; some will be achieved relatively quickly; many will be ongoing. A discussion of each task and a suggested timeline for its completion follows. The Historic Preservation Commission will review progress on the initiatives every two years and will issue a report to the County Executive. The Commission, in conjunction with the County Executive, will then identify where adjustments to the program, if necessary, should be made.

When the initiatives set forth in this Plan are accomplished, they will help meet the challenges of growth management and resource protection set forth in the 1996 Master Plan and Land Use Element Plan as well as the "Visions" that guide Maryland's Planning Act of 1992. Finally, completion of these tasks, which will require a serious commitment by both the County and its citizens, should promote the building of public/private partnerships between the County and the private sector.

- **Create a "historic layer" in the County's Geographic Information System.**

  The number and variety of applications for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are impressive and the amount of data staggering. The use of Geographic Information Systems grew dramatically in the 1980s and it is now commonplace for business, academia, and government to use GIS for many diverse applications. Harford County began its GIS efforts in 1991. When complete, the system will be among the most important tools in the entire planning system and it is therefore vital to create a "historic layer" of information. The "layer" will include the location of all inventoried historic sites, structures, districts, and archaeological sites; basic information about each entry such as date of construction if a building and what sort of legal protection it enjoys; and a photograph, if appropriate. The precise mapping will allow these resources to be factored into the development process. In addition, making basic data about these resources available to the general public will provide a welcome service to homeowners, realtors, school children, and other interested parties.
  Timeline: Completed in 1998

- **Continue documenting historic sites and resources in the County**

  Professional architectural historians and archaeologists have been collecting information including descriptions, maps, and photographs about the County's historic resources since the late 1970s. This

  inventory now contains data on nearly 2,000 buildings and archaeological sites. With the basic inventory largely complete for pre-World War II resources, it is time to examine and assess the County's more recent cultural heritage and to create entries to the Inventory as warranted. At the same time, historians will keep an eye out for any older sites that may, for whatever reason, have been overlooked during past gatherings of information and will add these to the Inventory.
  Timeline: Ongoing.

- **Review and revise existing historic preservation legislation**

  Legislation creating Harford County's historic preservation program was enacted in 1974, pursuant to powers granted to Charter counties in Article 25A of the Annotated Code of Maryland. This legislation (Sections 267-59--267-83, inclusive, of the Harford County Code) has been periodically amended to reflect immediate, specific concerns and needs. It has never, however, been objectively viewed as a whole. The changed state of attitudes about historic preservation in general and the changed condition of the County itself makes such a review necessary. Moreover, some sections of this Plan call for specific new legislation and amendments to current laws. The resulting revised legislation will allow the County to streamline review efforts and more effectively protect Harford's historic resources. Specific topics to be addressed, in addition to those that grow out of these implementation strategies, could include facilitating the adaptive reuse of historic resources through modifications of

possibly-restrictive building codes, crafting incentives that will make preservation and adaptive reuse more attractive to the development community, examining the usefulness of the "Secretary of the Interior's Standards" for restoration, developing methods to minimize demolition by neglect, creating criteria for evaluating the relative significance of inventoried sites, identifying ways to involve the Historic Preservation Commission at the most appropriate point in the Development Review and zoning processes, and finding a way to ensure compatible use on sites adjacent to historic resources.
Timeline: 1998-2000

- **Foster education/stewardship initiatives**

  Education of our citizens, and the development and fostering of a stewardship ethic, forms the foundation of many initiatives of this Plan. The County's efforts to protect historically and culturally important resources so as to maintain a quality living environment must be supported and driven by a populace interested in the peoples and aesthetics that have formed Harford County's rich history and exciting present. An education/stewardship program will identify opportunities for collecting, preserving, and disseminating information that will underpin Harford's historic preservation efforts. Specific programs should include encouraging existing programs such as "Harford's Living Treasures" that offer opportunities to create oral histories, establishing a speakers bureau, publishing material on the County's historic and cultural resources, assisting in outreach programs to schools and community groups, and promoting tours and tourism. Such efforts would of course be undertaken largely by the private sector, with the encouragement, to whatever extent is feasible, of the County.
  Timeline: Ongoing

- **Support public/private initiatives**

  Since earliest times, Harford County's historic preservation efforts have been characterized by a series of public-private partnerships. This healthy practice should be continued and future initiatives should be built on past successes. Thus, the County could and should do much to support citizen and private-sector initiatives such as expanding heritage area tourism, creating and supporting natural heritage areas, assisting citizens currently preparing the management plan for the Lower Susquehanna Greenway, and encouraging further surveys of historic buildings and archaeological sites.
  Timeline: Ongoing

- **Create a "restoration depot"**

  Both planned growth and the unplanned forces of nature will continue to ensure that Harford County will lose historic buildings. But even though an entire structure is gone, significant parts of it may remain. Thus, as many other jurisdictions have done, the County should encourage, and when practicable assist, members of the private sector to create a central repository for doors, mantles, lighting fixtures, stairs, and other features taken from demolished older buildings in the County. County residents engaged in restoring their own

buildings could have these treasures for their own use.
Timeline: Creation 1999-2000; maintenance: ongoing

- **Refine existing village protection strategies and create new initiatives as needed**

  The current philosophy of "Smart Growth" will create opportunities for housing development and economic revitalization in existing, older communities including Harford County's identified "rural villages." In achieving these laudable ends, care must be taken to preserve and protect these valuable areas. Specific tactics to achieve this strategy could include design guidelines for new construction and restoration that reflect a specific community's traditions, zoning initiatives, density restriction, and landscape/buffer requirements.
  Timeline: Ongoing

- **Develop a package of financial incentives for citizens and commercial interests to encourage the protection and promotion of historic resources**

  Presently the financial incentives for restoration and preservation of historic structures and sites take the form of tax relief. Often owners or potential owners of these historic properties have limited funds to spend and are deterred from pursuing their dreams due to lack of locally administered grant and loan programs. These could take the nature of revolving funds so that there would be no need for public monies after the initial investment. Revolving funds have proved very workable in communities throughout America. The Historic Preservation Commission should investigate existing programs and make recommendations to the County for further action.
  Timeline: 1999

- **Pursue designations as a means for protecting individual sites and districts**

  Harford County has been highly successful in achieving the two Federal designations, i.e., The National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks, for historic properties. (For example, the Lower Deer Creek Valley Historic District is the largest such district in Maryland and one of the largest in America.) These designations offer protection to historic properties from publicly funded projects such as roads; achieving them--always with permission of the owner--should remain an on-going priority. Members of the Historic Preservation Commission should examine and assess the sites inventoried to date and then recommend potential candidates for listing.
  Timeline: 1998-2004

APPENDIX

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Appendix A: History and Heritage of Harford County

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Location and Geology

Perched at the point in northeastern Maryland where the Susquehanna River flattens out to form the Chesapeake Bay, Harford County takes in approximately 520 square miles of land and water and 5,000 years of history. It is bordered to the east by the Susquehanna, to the south by the Chesapeake, to the west (across the Little Gunpowder Falls) by Baltimore County, and to the north by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Roughly one-third of the County lies in the Tidewater (or Coastal Plain), a gently sloping area lazily washed by the broad Bush and Gunpowder rivers. The rest of the County rolls away to the north and west into the increasingly hilly Piedmont; the two physiographic provinces are divided by the Fall Line, which lies more or less along the route of Interstate-95.

These geological bases offer a variety of mineral resources and soil types. The County exhibits an equal range in its waterways, from the tidal Bush and Gunpowder to the swift-flowing streams of the Piedmont such as Deer Creek, Winter's Run, Bynum Run, and James Run. These varieties of topography and soils have strongly influenced the County's history since they have always exerted a direct relation to its agriculture and industries. Bountiful supplies of shad and herring provided the base for a flourishing fishing industry throughout the 19th century, and this wealth evinced itself in many still-present buildings as well as in the docks, cleaning sheds, and other lost structures that could become important archaeological sites. Similarly, the crops that can be grown and the minerals that can be extracted have determined the nature of much of the County's building stock and explain why (and when) Countians built dairies and hay mows and stables, and why (and when) they were able to build of brick or frame and cover their structures with slate shingles quarried from the mines at Delta and Cardiff.

History and Heritage

The character of a community, its distinctive identity, is defined by its physical, cultural, and social qualities. Thus it is important to note that Harford's character reflects not only the changes the County has experienced during the three and one half centuries that have passed since the first known European colonists settled at the confluence of the Susquehanna and Chesapeake but also the millennia during which the area was home to many Native Americans, including members of the Susquehannock and Massawomek tribes. The following overview of Harford's history is arranged according to the Maryland Historical Trust's Comprehensive Planning times and themes. In the following discussion, properties are identified by their listing number in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Sites, i.e., the prefix HA (for Harford) and their sequential identifying number; the

Susquehannock Soapstone Quarries, for example, are inventoried as HA-1227. It is important to repeat that this is an overview; those who wish to become more thoroughly acquainted with the history and buildings of the County--and to thus perhaps gain a more in-depth understanding of its communities' character-- are urged to read Walter Preston's *History of Harford County* (1901), Samuel Mason's *Historical Sketches of Harford County, Maryland* (1955), C. Milton Wright's *Our Harford Heritage* (1967), Peter A. *Jay's Havre de Grace: An Informal History* (1986), Marilynn M. Larew's Bel Air: A Cultural and Architectural History (1996), Christopher Weeks's *An Architectural History of Harford County*, Maryland (1996), and the quarterly "Bulletin" of the Historical Society of Harford County.

Pre-History

The prehistory of the County can best be understood within the context of the prehistory of the larger Northeast Maryland region, which may be divided into three broad eras, i.e, the Paleo-Indian/Early Archaic (c. 12,000-6,500 B.C.), the Archaic (6,500-1,000 B.C.), and the Woodland (1,000 B.C.-1600 A.D.). In North America, these eras were associated with the end of the Pleistocene environment. Mixed deciduous forests dominated the landscape near rivers; these forests became intermingled with grasslands as elevation rose, yielding to (generally) coniferous forests on higher ridges.

Many Native American peoples are known to have settled (or migrated through) what is now Harford County during these centuries; documented sites associated with these peoples include 1) quarry sites; 2) quarry reduction sites; 3) quarry-related base camps; 4) base camp maintenance stations; 5) outlying hunting stations; and 6) point-find sites. Archaeologists have documented many sites that have yielded artifacts associated with all three eras, from projectile points and "Folsom darts" found near Joppa (which are generally assigned to the Early Archaic era) to Archaic-era quarry sites near Broad Creek to ceramic sites and shell mounds (or "middens") from the Woodland era. To guarantee the future integrity of these sites, their exact location will not be made public.

Perhaps the most intact of these sites are the Soapstone Quarries near Broad Creek (HA-1227). Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, these extensive and well-preserved quarries are among the few such documented sites in North America. A thick, deep vein of soapstone underpins vast stretches of northern Harford County; while it generally rests far beneath the soil, here and there it breaks through to lie at (or just below) the surface. The Susquehannocks knew these outcroppings well for when members of the tribe felt the need for stone vessels, they would go to the site, choose a piece of stone that approximated the size of the desired object (a small stone for a cup; a larger one for a bowl, etc.) and then fashioned the vessel from the stone. Archaeologists with the Department of the Interior--who deemed these sites "vital" to our understanding of the Susquehannocks--have dated Harford's quarries to c. 1,700-1,000 B.C.

Without doubt the best-known reminder of the Susquehannock's time in the County, though, are the celebrated petroglyphs of Bald Friar (HA-1784). The term petroglyph was made by combining two Greek words, petro and glyph, or "stonewriting," an accurate description of the 53 differentiable figures ground into stones that lay on islands in the Susquehanna River about 2 1/2 miles downstream from the Pennsylvania line. While most authorities agree that the Susquehannocks made their writing with a stick, using sand as an abrasive, few, if any, authorities agree as to the

ultimate meaning of the carvings: some suggest they were intended as propitiation to gods; some suggest they were simply works of art--early examples of art for art's sake; others see connections between the most common designs, which are fish-shape, and the immeasurable runs of shad which filled the river each spring--in pre-Conowingo Dam days.

Whatever their artistic or practical origins, the petroglyphs have attracted the attention of the scholarly community since the mid-1800s; joint teams from the Maryland Historical Society and the Maryland Academy of Sciences examined the carvings in 1916-17; Baltimore Sunpapers articles on them appeared in 1923. Despite the national attention they drew, the petroglyphs' end came in 1927 when the Philadelphia Electric Company, by damming the river at Conowingo, created a lake which completely inundated the stone-writings' islands. Before the dam was built, however, representatives from the Maryland Academy of Sciences removed some of the carvings to Baltimore for safe-keeping. They remained in storage until the 1970s. Then, perhaps sparked by the Bicentennial, interest in them resurfaced locally and the few petroglyphs that could be found were returned to Harford County. Displayed in the courthouse in Bel Air for a few years, the petroglyphs have been recently relocated to their new, permanent resting place--the headquarters building of the Historical Society of Harford County.

History - Preface

The Maryland State Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan of 1986 provides a structure for creating historic and prehistoric contexts. Harford County's Prehistoric Period follows the state chronological/developmental sequence. In the Historic Period, however, Harford County's development differs from the State's in certain key ways, e.g., the County has never experienced an era that could be called "Urban Dominance"; the County's Contact period dates from c. 1608 not 1570. Nevertheless, the general framework remains loosely applicable and will be retained.

Colonial Background

In 1634, the first permanent European settlement in the colony of Maryland was established at St. Mary's City on the shores of the Potomac River. From 1634 until 1689, Maryland was governed as a proprietorship under the Calvert family, created Barons of Baltimore. After England's "Glorious Revolution" of 1688-89, Maryland became a Royal Colony under the direct governance of the Crown. This period lasted until 1715, when Queen Anne, the last Stuart monarch, died and King George I ascended to the throne establishing the House of Hanover; one of the new king's first acts was to return Maryland to the Calvert family, an act that spurred new settlement in the colony.

Contact and Settlement Period (A.D. 1570-1750)

In July of 1608, Capt. John Smith sailed north from Jamestown, Virginia, to explore the Upper Chesapeake. He spent several weeks tacking and rowing in and out of the rivers and creeks that form the shoreline of modern Kent, Cecil, and Harford counties. He mapped what he saw as he traveled from the tip of the Gunpowder Neck at what he called Powell's Island (modern Poole's Island) which he named to honor crewman Nathaniel Powell, northwards past Bush River (which he called "Willowbyes"), around Spesutia Island to the Susquehanna Flats. He detected four main

streams at the head of the bay and noted that "the best commeth northwest from the mountains." This, the present Susquehanna River, he decided to explore. However, he could only get his ship a few miles upstream before what he called "rockes" at present day Lapidum rendered the river impassable. He and his men then put ashore and explored this wilderness on foot about "a myle and a halfe" where "runneth a creeke" that flowed from the west, undoubtedly Deer Creek. Smith then left the Upper Bay and returned to Virginia, where he mapped his voyage and eventually published his Journal from which the above excerpts were taken. But except for the journal and map and a few place names such as Smith's Falls at Lapidum, the captain left no other record of his visit to the head of the bay.

The next documented English visitor to Harford County was Edward Palmer, a native of Gloucestershire drawn to Virginia by Capt. Smith's glowing description of the fertile land and fish-filled waters. Palmer soon left Virginia, sailed north, and established a trading post on what he called Palmer's Island, a 200-acre island at the mouth of the Susquehanna. Here he established a fur-trading company, buying pelts from the Susquehannocks and selling them to English colonists in Virginia. But for unknown reasons, his venture soured, his followers abandoned him, and he returned to London, where he died in 1624. Palmer had not forgotten his stint at the head of the bay, however, for in his will he left his fortune to establish a university "to be called Academia Virginiensis et Oxoniensis," and to be built on his island in the Susquehanna. It would have been the first university in the Western Hemisphere. But here again he failed and nothing came of this quixotic notion except for "a few books found there when Lord Baltimore took over the island in 1637," according to notes made by historian George Archer in the 1890s. Certainly Palmer's Island (renamed in the late 19th century Garrett Island to honor the president of the B&O Railroad) would seem ripe for archaeological exploration.

As noted, Lord Baltimore's colonists founded St. Mary's City in 1634. But the English Civil War and subsequent regicide had thrown the colony into legal chaos: the king had granted Maryland to Lord Baltimore, but if the king was executed and his government deposed, who owned the colony? Matters clarified around 1660: in 1657 Philip Calvert, younger brother of the 2nd Lord Baltimore, came to Maryland as chancellor of the colony to re-establish his family's legal rights and in 1660 the monarchy was restored and James II ascended to the throne of his murdered father. Not coincidentally, these years saw the first land grants (patents) in what became Harford County. These tracts include Woodpecker (200 acres in 1658 to George Gouldsmith), Oakington (800 acres, 1658, Nathaniel Utie), Harmer's Town (200 acres, 1658, Godfrey Harmer), Eightrupp (500 acres, 1665, Thomas Griffith), Land of Promise (1684, Thomas Taylor), and Cranberry Hall (1,547 acres, 1694, John Hall). All these lands are waterfront, accessible either from the bay (and its tidal estuaries), the Susquehanna, or Deer Creek. Settlement fairly burgeoned in the late 17th century and historians have estimated that approximately 1,740 people lived in Harford County by 1701. (For convenience sake, this narrative will continue to refer to "Harford County" when dealing with the pre-revolutionary era, even though the County was not officially erected and separated from Baltimore County until 1773.)

Shortly after receiving his patent, Godfrey Harmer sold his Harmer's Town tract to Thomas Stockett, a captain in the militia and Lord Baltimore's agent for dealing with the Susquehannocks. In 1685 Stockett acquired the services of one George Alsop, a native of London who sold himself into servitude in exchange for passage to America. Thus beginning in 1658, Alsop labored away on

Harmer's farm, near the site of present-day Havre de Grace. By 1663 (or '64), however, Alsop, who had by then worked out his indenture, returned to England. In 1666 he published his book, *A Character of the Province of Mary-Land*, which gives a unique first-hand impression of l7th-century Harford County: its people, vegetation, wildlife, form of government, and living conditions.

The first substantial public works project in the new colony also dates to the 1660s: the laying out of the Great Post Road to link New England and Virginia. Its initial route through Harford County (completed c. 1670) ran across the Little Gunpowder near the future site of Joppa, down the Gunpowder Neck to the Bush River, thence across the river (by ferry) to Old Baltimore (the then County seat) and up through what is now the Aberdeen Proving Ground (near the Anglican church at Michaelsville) to the ferry across the Susquehanna at Stockett's farm. In 1687, this circuitous route got straightened out when a new post road (known as the King's Road) was laid out a bit to the north, roughly along the right-of-way of the present U.S. Route 7. (See Figure 3.) This new road was the grandest land thoroughfare in the colonies and as such, it played host to 150 years worth of American and foreign luminaries. Inns and taverns sprang up along its path at ten to twelve mile intervals. (These distances represent one day's reasonable travel.) It is known that Harford boasted three taverns from the post road's earliest days: the Peggy Stewart Inn at Joppa, one at Bush, and one at the bank of the Susquehanna. All three of which have undergone many transformations. The earliest versions of the taverns do not exist: the one in Joppa would be a candidate for archaeology; the one at Bush (the "Bush Hotel; HA-867) is probably a late 18th-century replacement; the one near the Susquehanna (the "Elizabeth Rodgers House"; HA-798) also probably dates to c. 1780.

Unlike most of the other early counties in Maryland, Harford never had a long-lasting County seat. The hamlets that sequentially held that title in colonial years are Old Baltimore (from 1669 to 1691), Gunpowder (1691 to 1709), Joppa (1709 to 1768), and Bush or Harford Town (1773 to 1782). Old Baltimore and Joppa are known archaeological sites (HA-1305; HA-1315; and see Figure 3) but more excavation could be done at each: the site and specifications of the 1709 Joppa courthouse, for example, are known, thanks to work by James Wollon, AIA, and Jack Riggin. Bush and environs, too, is ripe for investigation; the precise site of Gunpowder, on the other hand, has mystified historians since the late 19th century, when, aided by the Historical Society of Harford County men and women began to document Harford's colonial past.

No structures remain from the County's early years. (Indeed, only two buildings in the entire state of Maryland can be securely dated to the 17th century.) But a few did exist into the 20th century, located on bay-front land that became the property of the federal government in 1917. The houses were generally one or one-and-one-half stories tall under a gable roof, frame covered in clapboard, one or two rooms per floor, with each room heated by a brick chimney. The precise location of the houses would not be difficult to determine and could warrant archaeological investigation; similarly, it is known that an Anglican church had been established near Michaelsville (in the Aberdeen Proving Ground) in 1671, making it one of the most venerable parishes in America. This, too, would warrant the attention of archaeologists--but all these suggestions carry with them the caveat that the lands in question have been used for weapons'- and poison-gas-testing since 1917.

Rural Agrarian Intensification Period (A.D. 1680-1815)

With the easily-accessible shoreline patented by c. 1700, settlers began to buy inland acres as is suggested in Figure 3. Originally, most of these holdings were clearly speculative ventures and there is no evidence to suggest anyone actually lived on any of those acres. By early-mid 18th century, however, settlers began to move up the natural highways offered by the Little Gunpowder, Winters Run, and James Run valleys. The 300+-acre tract known as Jerusalem, for example, had been patented as long ago as 1687, but it is unlikely that anyone built anything on the land until 1769, when Isaiah Linton and David Lee began work on the still-standing Jerusalem Mill, completed in 1772 (HA-433).

The presence of gristmills suggests the presence of grains to be ground and indeed the 18th century saw the County's agricultural base shift from a dependance on tobacco, towards more diversification until by the time of the Revolution, grains had become the dominant crop and tobacco culture had all but disappeared. The abundance of swift streams, thanks to Harford's location on the Fall Line, made the County a natural place for mills and experts have identified 400 such sites. Most of these 400 were short-lived; indeed, only a dozen or so have survived to the present day and of these only three (Jerusalem, Rock Run, and Walters) retain any semblance of their industrial-era appearance. But from about 1725 to 1920, mills were, in the words of C. Milton Wright, "a most important asset to our country life....The mill opened up new channels of trade and provided country folk with an opportunity to convert the products of their labor into food and cash."

It is not known when the first mill appeared on the local scene, but reliable sources suggest the presence of a tide mill at Swansbury, on Swan Creek near present-day Aberdeen. (A tide mill is one whose wheel is driven by the rising and falling tides.) This was followed within a few decades by Magnolia Mill on Winters Run and Bush Mill on Bynum Run at Bush. Other early mills include Lapidum Mill (c. 1760), Jericho Mill on the Little Gunpowder (before 1770), Stafford Mill on Deer Creek (HA-199; c. 1780), Rock Run Mill (HA-191; c. 1760), Wilson's Mill on Deer Creek (HA-11; before 1783), Mill Green Mill (HA-93; c. 1770), Eden Mill (HA-562; c. 1789), Whitaker's Mill or Duncale (HA-1089; before 1790), Noble's Mill (HA-335; 1854), and the aforementioned Jerusalem. No history of Harford's mills would be complete without mention of the Wiley family's remarkable milling career. Joseph Wiley moved to Pennsylvania from Ireland in the early 18th century and prospered as a miller in Chester County. His grandson, Matthew (1751-1840) moved to northwest Harford in 1778, purchased 2,000 acres of land, and built three gristmills now known as Ivory (HA-448), Amos (HA-40), and Jolly Acres (HA-458).

Also during this time, Harford became important in the nascent American iron industry. The County contained all the raw ingredients for iron furnaces and forges: ample supplies of iron ore, ample water power, and thousands of acres of forests, the trees on which could be felled and burned to make charcoal. The colony wished to encourage this industry and in 1719 the assembly passed an act that offered 100 acres of land to anyone who could erect a productive furnace or forge. Thus by 1727 Stephen Onion had a flourishing forge on the Little Gunpowder near Joppa; Nathan Rigbie, Jacob Giles, and John Hall had the Cumberland Forge on Deer Creek underway by 1749 the same year George Rock built Rock Forge a bit downstream at Stafford; James Webster, John Lee Webster, Isaac Webster, John Bond, and Jacob Giles had made the Bush River Iron Works near Bush a flourishing concern by 1776; the La Grange Iron Works (HA-30, HA-31, HA-32) on Deer Creek near Rocks dates to around 1800, as does Sarah Furnace (HA-62, HA-128), about two miles south of Jarrettsville. In 1830, three Pennsylvanians incorporated the Harford Furnace Company (HA-

2069, HA-1254) and began operations on James Run. A generation later this would grow into the County's largest industrial enterprise, and is discussed below.

The oldest surviving houses in the County also date to the early-/mid-eighteenth century. Their builders had British origins and so, too, do these early houses for they take a form historians have called a British Cabin, namely one or two stories tall, with one, two, or three rooms per floor, and with each room built as an independent module, that is, each room has its own entrance door, staircase (always in a closet to conserve heat and space), and fireplace (the only source of heat). The Norris family built a one-module British Cabin, Prospect (HA-881; on the farm now known as Olney [HA-154]); the Halls built a two-module house, Cranberry (HA-163), near Aberdeen; the Websters built Webster's Forest (HA-442) and Broom's Bloom (HA-1075) on their vast holdings near James Run, and Thomas Bond built Joshua's Meadows (HA-356) on a hillock overlooking Winters Run for his son Joshua. All these houses are believed to date from c. 1740 and all are remarkably well preserved.

Less well preserved, due to a disastrous fire of 1990, is the stone house built by six generations of the Amos family on its own hilltop site across Winters Run from Joshua's Meadows. The first William Amos (1690-1759) immigrated to Maryland from England; he was married in Joppa in 1713 and in 1715 he paid L30 for a 200-acre tract "in the Woods." The land was patented as Clarkson's Purchase, but Amos rechristened it Mount Soma (HA-1260), which it is still called today. (Mount simply refers to the site and Soma is Amos spelled backwards.) William Amos II was born at Mount Soma in 1718 (although it is not known if the house he was born in still stands). He prospered as one of the County's leading farmers and land speculators and fought with distinction in the 1730s border wars with Pennsylvania, which eventually produced the famed Mason-Dixon Line. But he cut his military career short in 1738 when he had a revelation, converted to the Society of Friends, and devoted the rest of his life to "meekness, resignation, piety, benevolence, and charity." He established the Little Falls Meetinghouse on land donated by Thomas Bond in 1749 and that effectively marks the beginnings of the village of Fallston. (The present meetinghouse, HA-609, dates to 1843 and is the third on the site.) When Amos died in 1814, Mount Soma passed to his son James, who was later that year taxed on (2) two-story stone dwellings, both with dimensions of 22 feet by 18 feet. It is all but certain that one of these structures stands, part of the many-sectioned residence other Amoses created in a leisurely way until William L. Amos sold Mount Soma out of the family in 1918.

At about the same time Amos established the Quaker village of Fallston, at the opposite end of the County Nathaniel Rigbie (perhaps unknowingly) established the Quaker village of Darlington. In the 1720s, Rigbie inherited more than 2,000 acres of a tract of land called Phillip's Purchase, a fiefdom that bordered the Susquehanna from Shure's Landing to Glen Cove. With help from his 22 slaves, Rigbie made these acres yield bountiful crops which he sent to London in his own ships from his own wharves at Lapidum; he also began the frame dwelling still known as the Rigbie House (HA-4). He and the Halls of Cranberry were the most influential people in the County at the time and Lord Baltimore, in recognition of this fact, showered both families with appointed offices. In September 1737 Rigbie sold 3 1/2 acres of his holdings "to the people called Quakers," thus beginning the village of Darlington, a community that developed during the 18th and 19th centuries due in part to its proximity to the industrial sites at Wilson's Mill, Rock Run, and Stafford and to the roads which led from those hubs of industry and enterprise to the port communities of Lapidum and Shuresville.

The 3 1/2-acre tract Rigbie sold the Quakers had a building on it, and the Quakers used that structure for services until they could build the present stone structure in 1784 (HA-12). Both Fallston meetinghouses display the simple clean lines one associates with Quakerism; and in fact architecture in both communities also remained astylar until the mid 19th century.

One other Deer Creek religious institution deserves mention at this point, the stuccoed stone building known as Priest Neale's Mass House (HA-138), a structure that can truly be called unique. The reasons for this little building's existence are complicated. Put as simply as possible, in the late 17th and early 18th centuries waves of anti-Catholicism swept over England and its colonies. This led to, among other things, a series of "anti-popery" laws, including one that prohibited the celebration of mass except in private homes. A few Catholics (such as the Howards in England and the Carrolls in America) were rich enough to be able to build private chapels onto their houses and hire their own priests; others--the vast majority--had to rely on circuit-riding priests who rode from house-to-house to conduct services. One such was based here, beginning in 1743 when Father John Digges, S.J., bought a tract of land on the south bank of Deer Creek and established this mission. Digges died in 1746 and left the property to his friend and fellow-priest, Father Bennett Neale, S.J., who maintained the mission until he retired in 1773. After the Revolution, the new Archdiocese of Maryland acquired the mission; then, with freedom of religion guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, there was no need for missions such as this and the little building was sold and altered (slightly) to make it suitable for domestic use.

But the Quaker meetinghouses and the mass house were the exceptional religious institutions of colonial Harford, since the established faith was Anglican or Church of England. Harford contained two of America's earliest Anglican parishes, St. John's in Joppa, HA-1315 (when Joppa declined in the late 18th century, the church was closed and the congregation moved to its present location in Kingsville) and St. George's. As mentioned above, St. George's first church was near the Chesapeake, in the now largely-vanished community of Michaelsville. As settlement moved inland during the early 18th century, that old building became increasingly inconvenient to worshippers and in 1718 the church hierarchy chose the more central location of Perryman for a new church. That building, the second St. George's, quickly deteriorated and a third church was built in 1758. It, too, became obsolete, as is discussed below. Because of their connection with the crown (the monarch is the temporal head of the church), these Anglican churches were more than places of worship: they were seats of government as well. Accordingly, vestry houses, built as places to conduct parish business, often functioned as courthouses, schools, and settings for other secular concerns. Such was the case at St. George's, Perryman, whose extant vestry house (HA-250) dates to 1766. The importance of the Flemish bond brick structure no doubt accounts for the remarkably complete building specifications, which have survived among the parish records.

It ought to be pointed out that the surviving colonial-era houses (and religious structures) generally represent the very highest level of building in Harford County at the time: because they were the best built, they have endured the longest. These then--Broom's Bloom, Joshua's Meadows and the rest--were the homes of the elite. The homes of the elite were built of sturdy brick or stone; the homes of most landowners were flimsily built of frame, which rotted easily during the hot humid Maryland summers. The first complete record of Harford's building stock dates to 1798, when tax assessors scoured the County writing down what they saw. They report that of the 657 taxable residences they found, 534 (81%) were one story tall. A similar percentage were of frame construction. Thus if the 39'

x 20' dimensions of the Hall family's 1 1/2-story Cranberry seem small today, the house would have seemed a mansion when it was new. (In fact, 18th-century documents refer to it as "the mansion house of the Halls.") For instance, one of the family's wealthier neighbors, John Stevenson, lived in a "15 x 15 1-story wood house." One may rest assured that Stevenson's house contained a single room; that it was flimsily built; and that if it had windows at all, they were unglazed holes in the wall.

And if the County's white landowners lived simply, Harford's slaves lived in conditions impossible to imagine. For example, another of the Halls' neighbors, Clark Hollis, owned a 176-acre farm and nine slaves. Among the outbuildings on his farm listed in 1798, one finds a " quarter 14 x 18 log," as well as a "stable 18 x 12 wood" and a "henhouse 13 x 11 wood." In other words, while the slaves' building--that quarter--was larger than the henhouse, Hollis treated the hens to planed lumber but felt the slaves could make do with unfinished logs. And since that 14-by-18 building was the only dwelling mentioned for slaves, it means that nine people lived in a 14 by 18 foot log cabin. That is what home meant to one-quarter of Harford's late 18th century population, since the 1790 census showed 3,417 slaves among the 14,976 people in the County. Two known 18th-century slave quarters have survived: a 10' x 12' stone structure at Joshua's Meadows (where the Bonds' six slaves lived) and a stone building of similar dimensions at the Preston-Wysong family's seat, The Vineyard (HA-417).

The Revolutionary War stimulated Harford's development in many ways: those who took the most active role in the patriot cause helped bring neoclassical architecture to the County; the County became a major thoroughfare for troops from both sides, some of whom would later settle here bringing with them exotic architectural styles and a stimulus that aided in the growth of towns such as Abingdon and Havre de Grace; and when the County itself was created in the 1770s, it led to the new seat, Bel Air.

During the late 18th century, Harford blazed as " a hot-bed of radical politics. Its populace had shown overwhelming support for the Revolution," wrote William O. Carr. Significantly, the men and women who most fervently led the County through the Revolution and the War of 1812--Aquila and Sophia Hall, Dr. John Archer, Col. John Streett, Commo. John Rodgers and his wife, Minerva--also pioneered the rational, ordered styles of building known as Georgian and federal.

Perhaps no Countians were more involved in the cause of self-government than Aquila and Sophia Hall , whose ancestors had built the medieval Cranberry. One of seven elected to govern the County when it was formed out of Baltimore County in 1773, Aquila Hall owned the now-demolished brick tavern in Bush that served as the new County's first courthouse (HA-864). In 1774 he chaired a meeting held in his tavern when Countians voted to support the recent revolutionary actions taken in and around Boston, he served as treasurer of the War Committee, chaired another meeting in his tavern when 34 Countians signed the Bush Declaration, that cry for self-rule that preceded Jefferson's Declaration by some 14 months. And when war finally broke out, Aquila organized a County militia and was elected its first captain. Hall had married his first cousin, Sophia White, daughter of Thomas White, a London-born lawyer who came to America in 1720 in the retinue of Charles Calvert, governor of the colony. His other children might be mentioned: daughter Mary married Robert Morris, "Financier of the Revolution," member of the Continental Congress, and signer of the Declaration of Independence; son William, friend of Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin West, studied for the ministry, served as chaplain to the Continental Congress, helped organized the

Protestant Episcopal Church after the Revolution, and was elected as that new sect's first bishop. Thomas White amassed some 7,700 acres in Harford County. He gave 3,200 of those acres, land bordered by the Bush River and the Post Road, to his daughter Sophia to serve as her part of her dowry and on that land she and her husband built the landmark house Sophia's Dairy (HA-2), completed in 1768 and famed for its exquisite interior panelling and imposing double staircase.

Aquila and Sophia Hall's contemporary John Archer, born on the family farm near Churchville in 1741, studied medicine at the new College of Philadelphia (now the University of Pennsylvania) and when he was graduated in 1769, he became the first person in America to receive a diploma from an American school of medicine. When he returned to Harford the doctor not only practiced his profession, but also immersed himself in the political issues of the day. He signed the Bush Resolution and Declaration, helped write Maryland's first constitution, fought in battle and rose to the rank of captain, and was elected to congress where he championed the principles of his idol, Thomas Jefferson. In the midst of this, he wrote numerous papers on medical topics and established on the grounds of his farm, Medical Hall (HA-3), a well-regarded medical school where he trained 51 young men to become doctors, including all but one of his six sons. When he died in 1810, his will freed all 7 of his slaves. Either Dr. Archer or his attorney son, Stevenson, expanded the old house on the Medical Hall property to the extant neoclassical dwelling. It is certain, however, that Stevenson (also elected to Congress) added elaborate French scenic wallpaper to the centerhall of the residence in 1824 to mark the triumphant return of Lafayette to America.

John Streett, born in 1762 (HA-1214) and thus too young to serve in the Revolution, won fame as a hero of the War of 1812. Commissioned a colonel in the cavalry, he helped stop the British at the Battle of North Point in 1814 and won commendation for his "bravery and efficiency in action." He also built a neoclassical house in Harford County (HA-1517), a center hall brick dwelling that embodies the delicacy, airiness, and attenuated proportions of the federal style.

Another Harford native, William Paca, born on the family farm, Paca's Park (now Rose Hill; HA-859, HA-860, HA-861, HA-862), near the headwaters of the Bush River in 1740, won fame in the Revolution, but did so not locally but in Philadelphia (where he signed the Declaration of Independence) and Annapolis, where he served as governor and built the renowned Paca House and Garden. His brother, John, however, stayed in Harford and laid out two towns on the family farm. One, Washington (on Otter Point) was intended to become a great shipping center; it failed. The other, Abingdon, laid out along the Post Road, thrived, at least for a while. Paca divided Abingdon into 64 lots of about an acre each; artisans, educators, and merchants flocked to the new community, which quickly eclipsed the older Bush and Joppa in importance. Abingdon became a center of Maryland's silversmithing; it had a gunshop that was reputed the best in America; and the town was able to support the first newspaper in the County. The compilers of the 1799 U.S. Gazatteer described Paca's thriving creation as containing "51 dwellings and 240 inhabitants of which 66 are black. It...has 6 stores filled with West India produce and the various manufactures of Europe." It also contained Cokesbury College, established in 1784 and the first Methodist-affiliated college in America. (HA-846, HA-847; it burned to the ground in 1795 and was never rebuilt.) The dwelling known as the Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House (HA-854, HA-855) is probably the only visible reminder of Abingdon's golden age: but many other houses might contain an 18th-century core under their many remodellings and the entire town seems ripe for archaeological investigation, as does the rest of the Paca's Park tract, which is still largely undeveloped.

Many of the most significant survivors of the Georgian/federal era cluster in and around Havre de Grace, a town whose origins date to this era. In the city are the stuccoed house built by Jean Baptiste Aveilhe in 1801 (HA-788), St. John's Episcopal Church (HA-544; 1809), and the brick Elizabeth Rodgers House (HA-798), which probably dates to c. 1780. The last building was run as a tavern by Elizabeth Rodgers and her husband, John, who also operated a tavern in Perryville and had a monopoly of the ferry line across the Susquehanna. George Washington's diaries reveal that he stopped at the Havre de Grace tavern more than once, and it is not saying too much that the City of Havre de Grace owes its existence to the Rodgers family. John and Elizabeth's son, John, became the County's most celebrated citizen due to his naval exploits. In fact he and his wife, nee Minerva Denison, founded, according to the Dictionary of American Biography, "the most celebrated of American naval families."

John and Minerva Rodgers lived in the brick mansion Sion Hill (HA-525), which she inherited from her parents and which their direct descendants still own. The house, on a hill overlooking Havre de Grace and the bay, is Harford County's only National Historic Landmark. Sion Hill also marks the northern end of a belt of contiguous, highly significant properties that encircles Havre de Grace. These include Mount Felix (HA-526; c. 1850), Mount Pleasant (HA-763, a 1907 replacement of a 1750s mansion), Blenheim (HA-107, a c. 1875 replacement of a mid-18th century dwelling), the Harry Mitchell House (HA-760, c. 1880), Old Bay Farm (HA-1721, 1937), Swan Harbor Farm (HA-243, c. 1790 with additions), Belle Vue Farm (HA-242, mid-18th century), Oakington (HA-9, c. 1816 with additions), and Swansbury (HA-240, mid- to late-18th century).

When the new County of Harford was erected in 1773, its courthouse (a tavern) was in the Post Road hamlet of Bush. This was an inconvenient location for most citizens, who by then had filtered into the County's inland reaches. Thus a new seat was needed and citizens held a referendum in 1782 and voted to move the center of government to the new town Bel Air, laid out by the Scott family in 1780 on their farm Scott's Old Fields. (In 1783, the Maryland Legislature confirmed the choice by an Act of Assembly.) The town did not exactly flourish in its first years but entrepreneur Thomas Hays changed that. Born in 1780, a son of Archer Hays (who later built the stone house [HA-152] that forms the centerpiece of Harford Community College), Thomas started out as a tavern keeper in Bel Air. He also bought several lots in the new town and subscribed to several shares of stock in the Bel Air and Harford Turnpike Company, then planning for a new, crushed-rock highway from Baltimore (and eventually via Churchville to the ferry at Rock Run). Because of his influence, Hays was able to route that road through Bel Air (and not incidentally past his tavern); he later served as chair of the committee that oversaw the paving of Main Street in the 1840s. One of his sisters, Mary Archer Hays, married the Rev. Reuben Davis, first headmaster of the town's first school, the Bel Air Academy (HA-237). The Academy was located in the stuccoes stone building still standing on Pennsylvania Avenue. Incidentally, Thomas Hays had purportedly built the structure to house a still. In 1811 the prosperous merchant/tavern-keeper/road builder bought the c. 1788 dwelling now known as the Hays House (HA-225). His increasing fortune allowed him to expand it twice, first with a small c. 1814 frame addition and later with a massive stone wing. He lived in the house until his death in 1861. The frame section of the house, moved from its Main Street site to the Bel Air High School property on Kenmore Avenue in 1960, is now maintained as a museum by the Historical Society of Harford County. Due to many and varied contributions to the town's growth, Thomas Hays is generally known as the "Father of Bel Air."

Agricultural-Industrial Transition Period (A.D. 1815-1870)

Thomas Hays's new road, coupled with the ancient Post Road, the novel Philadelphia Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad main line, and the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal, cemented Harford's ties to the booming city of Baltimore, the fastest-growing city in America in the early 19th century and a center of innovative design and craftsmanship. Accordingly, Countians had easy access to the latest thinking in science, agriculture, and architecture. This will be borne out in this time period in a wealth of innovative buildings in Harford County and in the creation and advancement of many progressive organizations and societies.

During these years, agriculture remained the backbone of Harford's economy. Seeking new ways to increase production on often worn out land, Countians eagerly experimented with new techniques. The Rev. William Stephenson, who lived near Lapidum (HA-207) serves as a case in point. An early convert to Methodism, Stephenson founded the Rock Run Church in 1785. The congregation, assisted by Stephenson's nephew, James (HA-570), built their present stone church (HA-565) in 1843 to the design of local stone mason Joshua Stevens, an artisan also credited with the Prospect School (HA-409) and the Todd-Stephenson House (HA-569). In 1804, the Rev. Stephenson, who supplemented his clerical income with farming and who presided over the Rock Run Academy, a private school for boys, from 1813 until 1821, co-organized one of the first agricultural societies in America, The Farmer's Society of Harford County. He served as treasurer of the group and, in that capacity, bought an acre of land near Lapidum and constructed a plaster mill to produce fertilizer. Dr. John Archer may have been an early customer, for his estate inventory, made on his death in 1810, includes "28 bushels plaster of Paris" which he planned to use to fertilize his 300-acre farm. (Archer's inventory also includes 30 barrels of corn, 16 bushels of buckwheat, and 60 bushels of potatoes.)

At about the same time, Benjamin Silver II (1782-1847) was experimenting with a new type of fertilizer on his land holdings around the community of Glenville. Silver, a grandson of Gershom Silver (1725-75), the progenitor of the family in Harford County, was among the first in the nation to realize that fishing could make one rich. He revolutionized the industry by using the "Bailey Float," a huge raft with shacks for men to live in for weeks at a time. Before Silver, commercial fishermen threw their lines in from the shore; he made it possible to go out to the fish and haul in hundreds of barrels of catch at a time. He invested his riches in land, buying his first farm (of 260 acres) in 1812 and continuously added to that modest beginning until at the time of his death he owned 1,352 acres from Glenville to Elbow Branch. A scientific farmer when such thoughts were novel, Silver, a descendant wrote, "used fish pickle from his own...fisheries to improve his lands while many around him neglected theirs." In good Victorian fashion, he not only improved his own condition in life, he also looked out for those less fortunate; he also donated land and paid contractors to erect the first Deer Creek Harmony Presbyterian Church and helped establish the Prospect School. (He himself had attended the racially integrated Green Spring School near Glenville.)

When Silver died, his sons (and one nephew) used their vast inherited wealth, lands, and family-owned quarry, to erect a series of picturesque stone villas on the hills around Glenville, the likes of which had never been seen in the County (HA-384, 385, 389, 398, 407). Indeed, W. Stump Forwood, first president of the Historical Society of Harford County, opined in 1880 that "there is no family in Maryland...[with] such a splendid set of buildings." The Silver Houses (a National Register Historic

District) are remarkable not only for their beauty but also for what they say about the importance of architecture to Countians, for the Silvers hired local architect William H. Reasin to help them with the design of the houses, the first time in Harford's history that anyone used an architect to design a house.

The Silver Houses, which date to the 1840s and 1850s, usher in a remarkable change in Harford County architecture first because the brothers actually hired an architect but also because the architect (with the clients' blessing) brought in significant stylistic changes. Heretofore, Harford's houses, churches, and public buildings had been neoclassical (if they had a style) or vernacular. Now Countians chose from among the many picturesque styles that were just gaining popularity in the nation, another indication of Harford's expanding ties to the outside world. The Rev. William Brand brought the Gothic revival to the County in St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Emmorton (HA-168), possibly designed by Brand himself and consecrated in 1851. The church not only is part of a world-wide movement towards Gothic style, Brand even equipped the building with English-made floor tiles and with a matched set of English-made stained glass windows. Harford was definitely becoming part of the larger world. Later Episcopal churches with a definite Brand connection include Holy Trinity in Churchville (1878; HA-167) and Rock Spring near Forest Hill (1875; HA-28)

The importance of St. Mary's Church was equalled a few miles away when the noted English-born Shakespearean actor Junius Brutus Booth built the Gothic Revival brick cottage, Tudor Hall (HA-117) near Fountain Green in 1847. Booth based the design of his new house on William Ranlett's influential book, The Architect, and one would have to travel far to see a better example of a Gothic Revival cottage than Tudor Hall, with its cross plan, clustered chimneys, irregular profile, leaded windows, and picturesque balconies.

While Harford Countians heartily embraced Gothic Revival churches and picturesque villas, they seemed less enthusiastic about the other great national style of the time, the Greek Revival. Undoubtedly the best example of the style is the First Presbyterian Church in Bel Air (HA-238), completed in 1852. It monumental Doric portico, placed high above the ground and clean classical lines are all one could want in a Greek building and suggest the hand of an architect. But to date, no architect's name has surfaced and credit for the design is generally given to the church's rector, the Rev. Ebenezer Finney, a son of the famed Rev. William Finney, who brought life to the Churchville Presbyterian Church in the 1820s. (The four houses the Finney family built just north of Churchville between 1821 and 1906 [HA-149; HA-1279; HA-1278; HA-1277], together form a National Register Historic District.)

Countians seemed equally diffident about Greek Revival houses. War of 1812 hero Capt. John Adams Webster, born at the family's Broom's Bloom, tacked a two-story columned portico across the front of his highly vernacular residence, Mount Adams (HA-1076), but most authorities feel he did so not out of a desire to be fashionable but to give unity to a many-sectioned, much added-to building. On the other hand, the maiden sisters Mary, Lydia, and Rebecca Titus, who moved to Harford from New Rochelle New York, did give the house they built near Fallston a distinctly Greek feel thanks to deep, columned verandas, a hipped roof, and squared fanlights above the main entrance (HA-690).

And at about this time, Harford became home to a nationally prominent architect, J. Crawford Neilson

in 1840, when he married Rosa Williams, a descendant of John Stump of Stafford, and moved to her inherited Deer Creek Valley farm, Priestford. (The original house has been replaced.) Neilson, born in Baltimore in 1814 and educated in England and Belgium, worked for the Baltimore and Port Deposit Railroad Company in the 1830s and the B&O in 1842. He then formed a partnership with the Austrian-born John Niernsee and during the 1840s and 1850s they produced some of the best buildings in the region including Camden Station (1851 and the largest train station in the world when it opened), an Italianate makeover of Johns Hopkins's villa, Clifton (1852), the Greenmount Cemetery Chapel (1851),and 1 West Mount Vernon Place (1849). Neilson also did a good deal of pro bono work in his adopted Harford and gave the County some of its finest buildings including the fourth and final St. George's Episcopal Church (1851), the courthouse (1858), a new bell tower for the venerable Churchville Presbyterian Church (1870; HA-441), Trap Episcopal Church (1875), and the highly picturesque villa Landsowne (1875).

This mid-century change in thinking about architecture, this willingness to experiment with building styles, is paralleled with Countians' willingness to experiment in other fields as well. For instance, in 1866 Aberdeen native George Washington Baker (1815-88) "decided to can for local market the blackberries, dewberries, and peaches from his own and neighboring farms," according to the 1897 Portrait and Biographical Record of Cecil and Harford Counties. From this humble beginning arose a family-run canning empire that spanned three generations of Bakers. But not only Bakers but the Mitchells (HA-1659), Robinsons (HA-1229), Osborns (HA-107), and so many others that Harford became famous as "the greatest canning County in America," according to the same 1890s source. Virtually every farm had some sort of cannery and it is safe to say that canning was the greatest single industry the County has ever--and likely will ever--enjoy.

Canning made hundreds of Countians well off and a few truly rich. The Bakers, suitably, probably grew richest of all and used their wealth to found banks, successfully run for congress, establish cemeteries (HA-1554), endow churches and hospitals, and erect, in Aberdeen and Havre de Grace, a rambunctious set of frame mansions complete with elaborate gardens and greenhouses (e.g., HA-999, HA-1296, HA-1553, HA-1559). Indeed, it has been written that "in the generation after the Civil War, the newly-incorporated town of Aberdeen swaggered with an architectural braggadocio unparalleled in Harford County," and much of this feeling continues in the town today, in contrast with the somewhat more conservative architectural mentality of Bel Air (with its government based economy) and more architecturally "correct" ambiance of the County's only city, Havre de Grace, one-time candidate to become national capital. (Aberdeen has recently been reincorporated as a city.)

Just one year after George Washington Baker canned his first berries and peaches, Clement Dietrich, a native of Alsace-Lorraine, paid the immense sum of $70,000 for the 5,067-acre Harford Furnace industrial site. From its modest beginnings in the early 19th century, by the time Dietrich purchased the property, it had become a vast industrial complex with holdings stretching from Creswell to Belcamp. Dietrich continued the property's historic industries of iron and milling (mentioned above) but also tried to diversify operations by building a chemical plant to produce acetic acid, wood alcohol, and pyroligneous acid. In 1868 Dietrich also built the immense stone mansion Fair Meadows (HA-1067), the first building in the County built in the internationally popular Second Empire style, named in deference to France's second emperor, Napoleon III. This manner of building--characterized by mansard roofs, cupolas with rounded hoods, and towers, became popular in Paris in the 1850s and 1860s and in America in the 1860s and 1870s, thus making Fair Meadows

one of the styles earlier American manifestations. A few years later, other Countians experimented with the style: around 1870 Garrett Amos added a mansard roof to his ancestral Mount Soma; Gabriel McComas built a tone-down second empire dwelling Del Mar (HA-1775) near Upper Cross Roads; and Henry Reckord built a mansard-roofed four-story grain mill in Bel Air in 1886 (HA-1471). Ignatius Walter Jenkins's stone, mansard roofed house near Pylesville, Belle Farm (HA-958) may actually predate its second empire peers for it possibly dates to the mid 1860s.

To the north, around the villages of Cardiff and Whiteford, Harford's famed slate quarries reached their zenith during this period. A thick vein of slate had been discovered in the area around 1725. Two brothers, William and James Reese, excavated some of the rock and fashioned it into shingles which they used to roof their new barn. Peach Bottom Slate, as it was called, the first cut slate in America, quickly attracted immigrant Welsh miners to the County and by the early 19th century quarrymen with names like Jones and Williams had made Harford slate world famous (HA-955). In 1850 slate from this quarry won first prize as the "World's Best" at London's Crystal Palace Exposition and throughout the rest of the century, architects and builders throughout America requested Peach Bottom Slate for roofing. The Welsh immigrants who settled in the County brought with them the culture they knew from Wales and Welsh-language newspapers were published in Cardiff-Whiteford until well into the 20th century. They also brought their native building practices with them, specifically the Welsh cottages which folklorists have called "Coulstown Cottages," after the nearby Pennsylvania hamlet of Coulstown. Several extant examples of this vernacular building type have recently been documented in and around Cardiff (HA-946, HA-1919).

Industrial stirrings were also heard in the Deer Creek Valley during this period. In 1866, for instance, Joshua Husband paid $4,000 for 161 acres near Kalmia. This was the site of the defunct Nottingham Iron Company of Baltimore and Husband took whatever buildings were standing and adapted them for the manufacture of ground flint (HA-1226), a material important in the manufacture of fine porcelain. Husband, his son, Joshua, Jr., and his daughter, Hannah, kept the mill going until the 1920s, while living nearby (HA-45).

The Husbands' operation helped the community of Kalmia flourish, one of many areas settled by free blacks in the years before the Civil War. Kalmia's origins go back at least as far as the very early 19th century. One of the oldest dwellings in the community is the one-story, rubblestone structure known as the Preston Stone House (HA-47) shown on the 1878 Martenet map of the County and labelled "Jane Preston co'ld." According to long-time area resident Annie Presbury, a free black stone mason surnamed Rumsey built this and five other dwellings around 1800 including the Preacher House (HA-46) on Lochary Road, which Mrs. Presbury dates to 1773. Kalmia grew large and prosperous enough to support a church of its own, the Clarks' Chapel M.E. Church (HA-48); the present stuccoed building is an 1885 replacement for one or two earlier structures. To the rear of the chapel is an ancient cemetery; most of the oldest headstones are too weathered to read, but one inscription can be made out: "Milky Gover, Died 1886, Age 77." One known worker at the Husband mill lived not in Kalmia, but in a stone house on Ady Road (HA-903). This was Walter Jackson, who paid $279. 35 for twenty-nine acres in 1886 which probably included the stone house. Jackson, well-known in his day, was the highly regarded mule driver of the Husband's mill. The mill was located about three miles away and Jackson is said to have walked there and back every day until about 1920. Samuel Mason, a Darlington farmer and historian, was among the first to note the contributions made by African-American men and women like Jackson to the County's development and prosperity. "They were the

wheels that made our clock tick," Mason wrote in his Historical Sketches. Mason observed further that few of these laborers "had horses and they walked from place to place along the dusty roads."

The names of most of these laborers have been lost. But there are one or two exceptions and among these one finds Cupid Peaker (or Paca as his surname was spelled originally), one of the most interesting people of any color to live in Harford County. On March 4, 1822, "Cupid Paca, freeman of color," paid $700 cash for fifty acres of land "on the main road leading from the Bald Friar Ferry to the [Darlington] Friends Meetinghouse." This choice of area shows good sense on Peaker's part for no other Countians were as welcoming to African Americans as residents of the Quaker village. (At least as far back as the 1790s, black students regularly attended the Silver family's Green Spring School alongside their white neighbors.) Peaker bought his acres from Cassandra Rigbie Corse, whose ancestors were discussed above. According to longtime resident George Hensel, Peaker "had married a woman who was a slave of Joseph Prigg, with whom he learned the trade of shoemaker." Peaker also learned the art of masonry and he and Moses Harris, another free African American, are remembered as "the principle builders of fences" throughout the greater Darlington area. The "thrifty Paca [Peaker] purchased his wife's freedom and that of an infant daughter" and he spent the rest of his life investing in real estate, farming, cobbling, building stone fences--and taking steps to ensure financial security for his descendants.

Another community of free blacks grew up outside Havre de Grace in the Gravel Hill area. Gravel Hill (or Gravelly Hill) grew up around its church, the St. James A.M.E. Church (HA-1591). That church was actually an outgrowth of the St. James Church in Havre de Grace, established in the 1840s by that city's free black population. (The present church, HA-1590, dates to 1874.) The church in town attracted free black farmers from the entire area, most of whom walked to and from service. Soon, however, enough began to weary of that trek and established St. James at Gravel Hill; they also established a cemetery at the church; the oldest grave dates to 1834. That first church proved too small, and the congregation built a replacement in 1857; in 1864 they put up an entirely new building, the core of the extant edifice.

Unlike the Quakers of Darlington, most white Harford Countians were ambivalent in their attitudes towards slavery. In the 1850s, for instance, one R. I. Jackson, who lived "in a beautiful stone house on the Stafford Road," according to Samuel Mason, "reserved one room in that house as a dungeon where he locked up slaves behind a door barred with iron." In his will, Thomas Hays, the "Father of Bel Air," bequeathed freedom to four favored slaves ("provided they behave themselves") but left others in bondage; others, including Dr. John Archer, willed freedom to all their slaves. Freeing one's slaves was relatively painless since it did not cost the deceased anything and a few Countians actually paid the substantial cost of freeing inherited slaves while alive, as Isaac Webster of Broom's Bloom did in 1785.

A few Countians took an even more active role in the fight against slavery and bravely assisted in the famed Underground Railroad, that covert network of free blacks and sympathetic whites who fed, sheltered, and comforted slaves escaping to the northern states and Canada. One documented "conductor" in Harford County was William Worthington, whose house (HA-1776) overlooking the Susquehanna near Darlington has been demolished but which would be ripe for archaeological investigation; another "stop" was the ice house at Swallowfields (HA-175), just north of the hamlet Berkeley. Recent investigations suggest that the Titus sisters may have offered an Underground

Railroad stop at Rochelle. Moreover, some evidence points to the possibility that the noted abolitionist and Underground Railroad "conductor" Harriet Tubman, who did most of her work on Maryland's Eastern Shore, may have been active in the Tidewater regions of Harford as well. Clearly, more work needs to be done. And despite all these efforts, in 1860, on the eve of the Civil War, some 1,800 men, women, and children remained in bondage in the County, owned by 488 Harford Countians principally in the Bel Air, Abingdon, and Aberdeen areas.

Once the Civil War broke out, Harford, while strategically important due to the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad (the only rail line to connect Washington, D.C., with Philadelphia and New York) actually saw little action. What there was focused on the railroad bridges across the Gunpowder, Bush, and Susquehanna and climaxed in 1864 when Harry Gilmor and a band of raiders fought a brief action at the Magnolia station and then torched the rail line's bridge across the Gunpowder. (See "Burning Bridges," in the Historical Society of Harford County's Spring 1997 "Harford Historical Bulletin.")

After the war, many of Harford's African Americans continued the struggle for equality and viewed education as the key to full citizenship. They gained a powerful ally in 1864 when the federal government established the Freedmen's Bureau, under the direction of Gen. Lew Wallace. The bureau established schools for free blacks and newly freed slaves throughout the South. (Hitherto, it had been illegal to teach African Americans to read and write.) In Harford County alone, the bureau, assisted by local blacks, oversaw construction of four schools, two of which remain. The school near Webster and the Anderson Institute in Havre de Grace are gone (the former was burned in 1926, purportedly by the Ku Klux Klan), but the McComas Institute (HA-304) on Singer Road and the Hosanna School (HA-210) on Castleton Road north of Darlington remain. Recently restored they are valued as priceless relics from a difficult era in the County's past.

Industrial/Urban Dominance Period (A.D. 1870-1930):

By the 1870s, America's Industrial Revolution, which had some of its first manifestations in Harford County, had reached its peak nationwide. Advances in science and technology, increases in population, and the spread of improved communications by road, rail, water, the advent of electrical and steam power, all came together after the Civil War and the resulting wealth--unprecedented in the world's history--produced America's Gilded Age.

Harford County gained its share of the rich-rich during these years and the architecture they favored has given rise to the phrase, "The Country Place Era." In Harford County, three architectural adventures may sum up the times, Indian Spring Farm near Churchville (HA-342 and created largely by the Symington family beginning in 1862), Liriodendron (HA-230, on the western edge of Bel Air and designed by Baltimore architects Wyatt & Nolting for Dr. and Mrs. Howard Kelly in 1897), and Oakington (HA-9), on a bluff overlooking the Chesapeake, and created between 1905 and 1933 when the early 19th-century Stump house on the site was enlarged--and enlarged again--by a series of colorful industrialists, one of whom employed the nationally-known architect Stanford White.

During these years, the hills along the Deer Creek Valley experienced their own infusion of monied new residents. But these men and women--and the architecture they produced--may be distinguished

from the three bouncy buildings mentioned above: instead of a vast--if beautiful-- stuccoed neoclassical pile known as Liriodendron, or the immense additions to Oakington created for James Breese, a man whose reading taste ran to books with titles such as The Romance of Chastisement. The area around Darlington was graced by a series of picturesque villas and churches designed by some of the most noted architects the Quaker City has produced. These buildings include Grace Memorial Episcopal Church (HA-78) and Rectory (HA-79), 1876 by T. P. Chandler and commissioned by D.C. Wharton Smith as a memorial to his father. They also include a wonderful series of houses by Walter Cope: an addition to Landsdowne (HA-288; 1886 for Hugh Judge Jewett, who also restored Darlington's venerable meetinghouse), Winstone (HA-323; 1885 for D.C. Wharton Smith), Westacre (HA-322; c. 1887 for Smith's son Courtauld W. Smith), Red Gate (HA-208) and Rosecrea (HA-311) for the brothers Bernard Gilpin Smith and Joshua C. Smith (owners of the Susquehanna Power and Paper Company), Grey Gables (HA-310) for Horace and Helen Stokes, and an addition to Meadow Farm (HA-280) for the Samuel Mason/Hannah Evans clans. All these individuals evince the spirit of public improvement, one of the better qualities to emerge from the Victorian era. D.C. Wharton Smith alone, for instance, co-founded the Darlington Cemetery Company (HA-82) and underwrote the Darlington Academy (HA-72) and the Darlington Good Road League (HA-393).

New railroads snaked their ways through the County during this era, joining the venerable Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore, which itself was reincorporated as the Pennsylvania. (Its tracks are now used by Conrail, Amtrak, and MARC.) The B&O--the oldest railroad company in America--laid its tracks to New York through Harford in 1880; and the Maryland and Pennsylvania (familiarly known as the Ma and Pa) opened for business in 1884. (The B&O is now part of the CSX system.) In providing a (circuitous) link between Baltimore and York, Pennsylvania, the Ma and Pa also gave Harford's farmers a reliable, fast way to ship perishable products such as milk to Baltimore markets, and also aided the development of the slate and marble quarries at Cardiff, since rail can carry heavier loads than horse-drawn wagons. The Ma and Pa closed operation in 1959 and its tracks have been taken up.

The Pennsylvania's remaining stations in the County (at Edgewood and Aberdeen) date to the 20th century but the B&O's station in Aberdeen (HA-841) is a fine product of the Victorian era. While most of the Ma and Pa's stations have been demolished, those in Fallston, Vale, Forest Hill (HA-1272), and Whiteford (HA-1892) remain as evidence of the important contribution that railroad made to Harford's economy. All the stations were designed by company architects who worked full time for the various lines.

One of the most ambitious construction projects in Harford's history, the Conowingo Dam, can trace its origins to this era. As long ago as 1884, the Susquehanna Water, Power, and Light Company received a charter from the Maryland Legislature. That charter specifically gave the company the right to condemn property along the Susquehanna to build a dam and a plant to generate electricity. Nothing much happened, though, until 1919 when the company (rechristened the Susquehanna Power Company) received another, similar charter from the Legislature. This time, however, the renamed company quickly became a subsidiary of the Philadelphia Electric Company and, after several surveys and studies were made, construction began on the new dam in 1926. Work progressed smoothly and in 1928 the 4,648-foot long dam was in operation. At its dedication, the dam was called "the greatest development, steam or hydro, ever constructed in one step in the

history of the power industry." It remains one of the largest hydroeclectric installations in America.

Not all of the county's construction projects, however, had to rely on outside talent to design their new buildings for one of Harford's own, George W. Archer, studied and practiced architecture in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Archer, a great-grandson of Dr. John Archer of Medical Hall, was born in 1848 and educated privately. He was graduated from the family-favored Princeton in 1870 and moved to Baltimore to work in the office of George Frederick, the young architect (born 1842) who designed Baltimore's City Hall in 1867. Archer opened his own office in Maryland's metropolis in 1875 and embarked on a busy, prosperous career. His Harford County commissions include the remodelling of Christ Church, Rock Spring (1875), Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Churchville (1878), a new Presbyterian Church in Bel Air (HA-1437; 1881), the house Windy Walls (HA-713) on Wheel Road (1894), and the Second National Bank on Office Street in Bel Air (HA-1462; 1900).

In 1917 Harford's decades of sunny, prosperous, and seemingly unending tranquility were abruptly interrupted by America's entry into World War I. Many Countians volunteered for and saw service in Europe during the conflict, it seems arguable that the greatest affect the Great War had on Harford came in October 1917, when the federal government condemned the entire Gunpowder and Bush river necks--35,211 acres of land and 34,000 acres covered by water or about 60 square miles in all. Heretofore, as historian Keir Stirling has written, these stretches of southern Harford County "were locally known as the 'Garden of Eden,' where an excellent grade of shoe peg corn had been grown for many years. Many area farmers were able to produce 125 bushels of corn to the acre. The Baker family and others engaged in the profitable canning industry were producing about 300,000 cases of shoe peg corn and tomatoes worth approximately $1.5 million annually by 1917....The famous Poole's Island peaches were...were canned locally and considered to be of high quality. Local fishing was another industry worth $700,000 a year."

Overnight all this changed as everyone living on those bay-front lands had to move to make way for the poison-gas testing facilities Washington felt the war demanded. The former landowners--the Cadwaladers, Bakers, Mitchells, and others--received some payment from the government for their lost acres and many of them then purchased other farms and resumed their lives. The workers, generally black tenant farmers, received nothing and were forced to move from the source of their livelihoods. Many such displaced families, including the Dembys and Gilberts, settled in a stretch of land near Magnolia; the houses, church, and school they built created the community now called Dembytown (HA-1603, HA-1604).

The two new army facilities, the Edgewood Chemical Center and the Aberdeen Proving Ground, also brought much development to the County, first in the area immediately near the bases, i.e., Edgewood and Aberdeen. Over the decades, however, the affects of these large job markets have been felt throughout the County and the two installations are undoubtedly the greatest sources of employment Harford has ever known and doubtless partially explain the County's skyrocketing 20th-century population, nearly tripling from 27,965 in 1910 (it had been 21,258 in 1810) to 76,722 in 1960.

Modern Period A.D. 1930 - Present

Harford County's modern era has been characterized by contradictory forces: on one hand, the County witnessed, particularly during the 1930s and 1940s, an influx of wealthy sportsmen and others attracted to the rural way of life that still characterized the area. These highly individualistic people supported ventures such as the Elkridge-Harford Hunt (HA-60) and eagerly bought and restored many of the County's finest old buildings. On the other hand, during these years Harford County, like the rest of the nation, saw the advent of mass-production, interstate highways, and suburban culture.

During the interval between the two world wars, men and women throughout America discovered Harford County's rich soils and picturesque countryside and began buying farms here. The houses they built (or created through restoration) differed from those of the preceding generation in several respects, most importantly in their owners' desire for simplicity and their avoidance of ostentatious, exotic styles in favor of, as historian Fiske Kimball put it in 1919, "the conscious revival or perpetuation of local traditions." Accordingly, Sen. and Mrs. Millard Tydings bought Oakington in 1935 and rid it of the excesses of Commo. Richards and other industrialists (as mentioned above); Gilman Paul bought and restored the 18th century Land of Promise (HA-575, assisted by Lawrence Hall Fowler, perhaps Baltimore's preeminent architect of the time); Russell and Kate Lord took time off from working in Washington for the New Deal to purchase The Land (HA-140) near Churchville and to experiment with rural electrification and the embryonic environmental movement; Francis and Lelia Stokes bought the Wilson's Mill property and hired the nationally known architectural firm Mellor & Meigs to restore the house (HA-10) and tenant house (HA-25), adapt the gristmill (HA-11) so it produced hydroelectricity for the farm, and lay out new, naturalistic gardens throughout the property; Mrs Anne Heighe bought the ancient Hays House near Fountain Green and turned its derelict barns and fields into a center of the horse-racing world (just as the Pons family were doing at Country Life Farm [HA-1718]) and built a new residence for herself and her husband (HA-932) on the site of the ancient Moores Mill; and Larry MacPhail retired from big-league baseball to restore Glenangus Farms (HA-1719) and make it a major player in the horse- and cattle-breeding industries. Perhaps most significantly, in 1929 Harvey Ladew bought the dilapidated Pleasant Valley Farm, fixed it up, moved there from Long Island, and began the gardens that are now internationally acclaimed (HA-1245).

All those somewhat romantic efforts actually ran against the temper of the times, which promoted mass-production and standardization. Accordingly, during the modern era, fewer and fewer of the County's buildings were individually crafted. The mass-produced house the sisters Florence and Sarah Helen Cronin bought from Sear Roebuck and erected near Aberdeen is far more typical of the time than Harvey Ladew's individualistic topiaries. Mass production and standardization of design also manifested themselves in the many gas stations built during these years (most were designed by company architects); one of the few remaining is the old Esso station on Route 1 near Benson; an almost identical one in Aberdeen (HA-1556) was completely made over in the 1980s. Aberdeen's New Ideal Diner (HA-1560), a shiny product of the 1950s, all aluminum and vinyl, also suggests that Countians eagerly embraced new styles and materials

Perhaps the most artistically important of these mass-produced creations dates to the late 1930s, when the Bata Shoe Company of Czechoslovakia purchased 2,000 acres of land at the head of the Bush River and began work on a planned industrial village. Working to the principles laid out by the Bata family's favorite architect, Le Corbusier, they filled their new town with small, interchangeable

houses symbolic of the era of mass production (HA-1582). They also built a gymnasium, shoe factory, and hotel all incorporating clean "natural" lines, axial arrangement of buildings, and "honest" use of materials favored by Le Corbusier and other followers of the Bauhaus movement.

After World War II, an estimated 6 million young married couples throughout America set out to build the dream houses they had longed for during the dark days of the Great Depression and war. They found fruition in Harford County in the late 1940s when returning veterans Walter Ward and Melvin Bosely bought some of the Liriodendron property from Dr. Kelly's son Freiderich and created the development Howard Park, the first modern subdivision in the County. The developers, incorporated as Ward & Bosely, then undertook such ventures as Wakefield Meadows (whose houses won national design awards), Edgewood Meadows, and Glenwood. Indeed, there were so many such projects (not all by Ward & Bosely) that the Baltimore Sun ran a piece on "The Building Boom in Harford County" in its May 3, 1959 issue: "The sounds of power saws and of engines driving concrete mixers can be heard at many scattered points in Harford," the paper reported.

The pace of building in the County has done anything but abate since then. In the late 1950s and early 1960s developers laid out the new community Joppatowne, the latest in a long line of planned communities that have been built in the County beginning with the Paca family's Abingdon. Indeed, aided by such transportation improvements as I-95, Maryland Route 23 (planned to link Aberdeen and Hagerstown but never completed), U.S. Route 40, and a new four-lane divided Maryland Route 24, Harford has truly entered the modern age. It gained its first regional mall in the early 1970s (The Harford Mall, built on the site of the famed Bel Air Race Track) and is now thoroughly entwined in the Greater Baltimore region.

Appendix B: Individual Sites and Districts in Harford County Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

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Bel Air Armory
Bel Air Courthouse Historic District
Berkley School (Hosanna School)
Best Endeavor
Bon Air
Broom's Bloom
Chestnut Ridge
Churchville Presbyterian Church
Col. John Streett House
D.H. Springhouse
Darlington Historic District
Deer Creek Friends Meetinghouse
Dibb House
Fair Meadows
Finney Houses Historic District
First Presbyterian Church, Bel Air
McComas Institute
Medical Hall Historic District
Mill Green Historic District
Mount Adams
My Lady's Manor Historic District
Norris-Sterling House (Mount Pleasant) Olney Farm Historic District
Orr Prehistoric Steatite Quarry Archaeological Site
Plumb Point Historic District
Pooles Island Lighthouse
Poplar Hill
Presbury House (Quiet Lodge)
Railroad Bridge over Bush River
Railroad Bridge over Susquehanna River

Fishing Battery Light House
Graham-Crocker House
Grey Gables
Griffith House (Cranberry)
Gunpowder Meetinghouse
Harford Furnace Historic District
Harford National Bank (demolished)
Havre de Grace Historic District
Havre de Grace Light House
Hays House
Hays-Heigh House
Hidden Valley Farm
Husband Flint Mill Archaeological Site
Ivory Mills Historic District
James B. Baker House
Jericho Covered Bridge
Jerusalem Mill Village Historic District
Joppa Historic District
Joshua's Meadows
Ladew Topiary Gardens and Ladew House
Liriodendron
Little Falls Meetinghouse
Lower Deer Creek Valley Historic District
Rigbie House
Rockdale
Silver Houses Historic District
Sion Hill
Slate Ridge School
Sophia's Dairy
Southern Terminal of the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal
St. George's Chruch Vestry House
St. Ignatius Church
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Swansbury
Thomas Run Church
Tudor Hall
The Vineyard
Webster's Forest
Whitaker Mill Historic District
Wildfell
Winsted
Woodside
Woodview

Appendix C: Harford county Landmarks

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Bon Air
Bush Hotel
Christopher's Camp
Churchville Presbyterian Church and Cemetery
D.H. Springhouse
Deer Creek Friends Meetinghouse and Cemetery
Deer Creek Harmony Presbyterian Church
Hays House
Joppa Historic District
King and Queen Seats
Little Falls Meetinghouse, Burial Ground, and Fallston Friends Schoolhouse
McComas Institute
Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House
Old Brick Baptist Church
Rigbie House

Sophia's Dairy
Spesutia Church, Vestry House, and Cemetery (St. George's)
St. Francis de Sales Church
St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery
St. Mary's Church
Stansbury Mansion
Tabernacle Church
Thomas Run Church
Whitaker Mill and Miller's House
Woodside

Appendix D: GLOSSARY

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Many of the following have been adapted from Historic Sites & Districts Plan of Prince George's County, Maryland (1981), and the Historic Preservation Plan for Frederick County, Maryland (1996).

Adaptive Re-use: The process whereby through minor remodeling an older building is altered to make it suitable for a use other than the one for which it was constructed. For example, the Historical Society of Harford County's adaptive re-use of the former United States Post Office in Bel Air.

Building: A structure created primarily to shelter any form of human activity. For example, the Harford County Courthouse; St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church; Whitaker Mill; the Ma and Pa Railroad Station in Whiteford; Hosanna School; Medical Hall.

Context: The setting or environment of a historic site or a historic district. A "historic context" is a preservation planning term for the organizational format that groups information about related historic properties. A historic context is usually based on one or more historic themes, specific geographic limits, and chronological periods.

Demolition by Neglect: A term used to indicate a condition where the principal structure of a historic resource has become unsafe; it usually implies the owner's willful neglect.

Designated Historic Resource/Designated Historic Site: Properties listed in the Harford County Code as Harford County Landmarks (Section 267-83) and County-owned historic property (Section 267-60.1). Properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks are subject to reviews by non-County agencies as explained in the Plan. These designations are distinct and different from properties listed in the Harford County Inventory.

Development Envelope: A defined geographical area along the I-95/Route 40 corridor and the Route 24 corridor north to Bel Air, where the planned development of neighborhoods and communities will be supported by public water and sewer.

District: A significant concentration of historic sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development.

Harford County Landmark: Buildings, sites, objects, districts, and structures significant to the development and culture of Harford County. Landmarks must be approved by a majority of the County Council. The list is maintained by the Department of Planning and Zoning.

Historic Resource: A district, site, building, structure, or object significant in history, architecture, archaeology, or culture. It may be of value to the nation as a whole for example Sion Hill or primarily to the community in which it is located for example, the Darlington Cemetery Sanctuary.

Inventory: All historic sites, buildings, structures, or objects in Harford County that have been studied, mapped, photographed, and described by architectural historians and archaeologists. It is simply a list of these properties; it is not a legal designation.

Maryland Register: A listing of Historic Places maintained by the Maryland Historical Trust that includes all National-Register listed sites in the state plus all sites officially determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register.

National Register: The official Federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. It is maintained by the National Park Service.

Object: A construction that is primarily artistic in nature or is relatively small in scale and simply constructed.

Rehabilitation: The act or process of returning a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration while preserving those portions or features of the property which are significant to its historic, architectural, or cultural values.

Site: The location of an event, occupation, or activity of historic or prehistoric significance or a structure, either standing or ruined, which possesses historic, archaeological, or cultural significance. For example, the site of Old Baltimore, a 17th-century county seat that has left no visible trace above ground.

Stabilization: The act or process of applying measures designed to reestablish a weather-resistant enclosure and the structural stability of an unsafe or deteriorated property while maintaining the essential form as it exists at present.

Structure: A functional construction made usually for purposes other that creating human shelter. For example, the ice house at Liriodendron; Jericho Covered Bridge.